China weekly Review

密勒氏評論報

SHANGHAI'S LABOR MOVEMENT

AMERICANS VIEW CHINA
by CHAO I-HOH

"THE STORMY SEA"
a story by CH'IAO FU TS'UEN

EDITORIALS:

LABOR DAY
DANGEROUS POLICY IN JAPAN

APRIL 29, 1950 **JMP 5,000**

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LETTERS From The People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of the China Weekly Review.

TRAINING TEACHERS

To the Editor:

Shih Ta, which is the only Normal University in China, started a new life when Peking was liberated. During its 47 years it had seen many difficult and trying times. It once was oppressed by the Pei Yang warlords. During the reactionary control of the KMT regime it likewise could not realize its full development. Now that it has gained full freedom it is going in a new direction. It is going to be a real People's university.

Mr. Chien, the vice minister of education, announced the lines along which the university should be reformed last year. He said its aim was to train teachers and to serve the people. He emphasized that education must serve politics as a keen weapon. He declared that its invigoration should proceed according to a plan.

Since then, the teachers and students have been discussing the matter and working on it together. We know that the duty of Shih Ta is to be a training institution for teachers of secondary schools in conformity with the policy of the New Democratic education, which is national, popular and scientific. It is also the duty of Shih Ta to train workers of social education and cadres of local administration.

The new system must meet the needs of social conditions. Subject matter and teaching methods are to be considerably improved. Courses which are unnecessary already have been abolished and a few new courses which are considered important and useful added. Unity of theory and practice is aimed at. Since teachers and students have become better acquainted, the efficiency of teaching has been raised a step higher.

With the recent inauguration of the new president, Mr. Lin Li-ju, the reform of Shih Ta has entered a new period. President Lin was a former professor at Shih Ta and therefore is well acquainted with the school. He also has had much experience in secondary educational work.

In his inauguration speech Mr. Lin pointed out the road for the development of Shih Ta. He said we should unite three things, namely, politics, education and learning. He asked all the teachers, students and workers to unite in order to realize the reforms in the shortest possible time. We students are determined to accomplish the great task under his direction.

CHAO TE CHI

Peking
April 20, 1950

SCHOOL SPIRIT

To the Editor:

Chiuchow is situated along the Chekiang Railway line and has a large provincial middle school with more than a thousand students in it. After the city's liberation, the old president fled, for it was discovered that he and some of his subordinates had been stealing part of the students' rice from the milling factory. He has not been seen here since. We now have a new president whose aim is to clear away all the bad habits and customs of the old days and bring new reforms step by step.

Many changes have already taken place at our school. A Youth League has been organized and all the members are responsible to lead their schoolmates. A month ago many students joined the reconstruction of the airdrome. Recently a magazine called "New Youth" has been published. It serves as the voice of our school. We are now conducting a "Red Star" contest. Anyone who has written an essay for the magazine receives a red star and everyone is anxious to get as many as possible. However, the main way student news is spread is by our blackboard bulletin, which is like a wall newspaper.

The activities of the productive work are going well. Every class has reclaimed several mou of abandoned land and now has finished spring sowing. We work on the land three times a week. Day before yesterday we helped the railway authorities carry down 400 rails from the dock to the station in three hours' time. A friend of mine who is a railway conductor said last night, "I've seen your students' working spirit!" His words made me happy.

LIU TSEH-WU

Chuichow, Fushan
April 22, 1950

END OF A BANDIT

To the Editor:

April 9, 1950, was a bright sunny day. It was made memorable by two public events. The first was the trial of a notorious bandit, and the second a demonstration against the bombings by KMT planes.

At 4:00 in the afternoon, large crowds gathered in front of the office of the people's government, blocking the gateway and the street. They craned their heads and kept watching the door to the prison, for everyone wanted to see the notorious bandit who was scheduled to be tried publicly in the park at 5:00 sharp.

Public trials are very common among the people of the old liberated areas, but in our region, this was the first one. Everyone here had participated in struggle meetings against local despots and had attended meetings on public occasions, but the public trial was a novelty.

Previously, the government had notified all groups to send representatives to the park where the trial was to take place. But no one wanted to wait there. Everyone wanted to have a first look at the bandit who had terrorized the countryside for such a long time.

At quarter to six, four prisoners were marched out between two rows of policemen from the Public Safety Bureau. The first three looked very ordinary but the last one was a stout fellow, tall and heavily built.

Everyone grew tense. The crowds pressed forward to have a close view of the robber while the soldiers were trying to hold them back with shouts and gestures. The robber ignored them all.

When they at last reached the north gate that leads into the park, the soldiers could not hold the people back any longer. They pushed and squirmed their way through and finally everyone converged to the spot where the bandit was to be tried.

The four prisoners were made to stand below the platform. The first three were visibly shaken; they were pale and one was trembling violently. They all looked like farmers for they were dressed in peasant's clothes. Only the principal culprit was calm, though he had a very fierce look. Somebody gave him a cigarette and he smoked it calmly. He showed not a trace of fear or remorse.

The trial began at 6:30. The magistrate was the first to speak. He explained to the people the government's policy in regard to bandits and related the bandit's crimes. His crimes were many. At the age of 19, he started his career as a robber and for 16 years he tyrannized the land. In the two years 1948 and 1949 he committed 10 robberies, killing several people who had not complied with his wishes and wounding many more. The liberation of the land did not alter him a bit; he remained the same stout and hard-hearted villain. Soon the Public Safety Bureau was receiving accusations against him, including stealing nine oxen and trading in opium. He was arrested three times during the KMT regime, but was quickly released each time by means of bribery.

(Continued on Page 158)

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A DANGEROUS POLICY

IT has been evident for some time that the United States was gradually preparing the groundwork for the signing of a Japanese peace treaty, with or without the participation of the Soviet Union. What's more, there have been many indications that a major motivating force behind this new policy is the idea of obtaining another anti-communist ally in the Pacific.

However, there have recently been indications that such plans were meeting with opposition from other nations of the Pacific, even from those already allied with the US in the latter's world-wide campaign to "contain" communism.

A year or two ago, it has been pointed out, America felt that only the Soviet Union would raise strong objections to an easing of the original plan for long occupation and strict control and that the other countries with interests in the area could be persuaded to accept the American plan of a speedy return of Japan to the "family of nations."

Originally, it will be recalled, it was planned that when the time came for a peace treaty the so called major powers of the Pacific would get together and agree on the terms and then present them to the "minor" powers for the latter's "consideration."

However, it shortly became evident that the US and the USSR would have difficulty in reaching any agreement and American planners then began to pay more heed to the protests of the smaller powers who insisted that they should be in on the discussions from the very beginning. Gradually, the United States shifted from a position of supporting a prior conference attended only by the "big" powers to the position of recommending that all powers having interests in the Pacific should discuss the question.

Lately a number of new factors have arisen which make even this latter course less attractive to the US. First, China has a new government which cannot be counted upon to rubber stamp all American proposals as was the case with the KMT which had mortgaged itself to Uncle Sam. In addition, Britain and a number of the smaller Far Eastern countries lately have been difficult to control. This is particularly true of the Philippines and Australia which view a resurrected and unrepentant Japan as constituting a definite threat to their security and also to their political and economic ambitions in this part of the world.

Press reports state that in view of all these "difficulties," the US has about given up the idea of an early peace treaty. MacArthur and Secretary Acheson, it is said, feel that it would now be impossible to get the kind of a peace treaty they desire. Thus, it is reasoned, they would prefer to do without one, since, in the absence of such a treaty, the US will continue to be the occupying and controling power.

Evidence that this is the way the wind is blowing in Washington and Tokyo, press reports state, was seen in General MacArthur's New Year's message to the Japanese people in which he said: "I have given you a de facto peace."

Meanwhile, the repealing of various SCAP controls during the past year has been speeded up. "If the first three years of the occupation were marked by intense efforts to 'democratize' Japan," one correspondent recently wrote, "1949 was remarkable for the sweeping relaxations introduced."

Most observers believe that the occupation largely ended when military government teams were withdrawn from prefectures on December 1, 1949. Since then, no close check has been possible on how the Japanese outside the big cities are behaving, acting or responding to earlier democratization and other edicts. Just as important was the United States' unilateral decision to end reparations. Some observers believe that the main reason promoting this move, aside from a desire to enable Japan to keep as much of her industrial plant as possible, was the American desire to prevent further machinery or other goods going to a China which was on the verge of "changing sides" in the cold war.

Beginning last year the Japanese were again permitted to fly their old flag, the rising sun. Japanese police "blossomed out in new Sam Brown belts carrying hard-hitting American 45 caliber automatics."

Japanese businessmen were permitted to travel abroad, while Japanese politicians and diplomats were readied for "post-graduate" tours of the United States, where plans were made for the opening of "unofficial" Japanese consulates.

There thus seems little doubt of the correctness of General MacArthur's remark that Japan already had a de facto or "actual" peace. With almost each passing week there is further evidence that Japan is rapidly emerging as a force to be reckoned with in the Pacific.

In view of the fact that MacArthur has accomplished next to nothing in his campaign to "democratize" Japan, this policy of removing controls and withdrawing allied supervision seems to us highly dangerous. The same men who held actual power in Japan before and during the war are the very same men now running the country.

The United States is thus accepting as friends and allies men, who only a short time ago were universally condemned as war criminals.

Is it any wonder, then, that the rest of Asia is dubious of America's ultimate intentions? Is it any wonder that America's talk of democracy becomes suspect in the eyes of those who have in the past suffered so grievously from the hands of America's new friends?

LABOR DAY

MONDAY is Labor Day. As pointed out in an article in this issue of the *Review* (page 144), this is a memorable event here in that it is the first Labor Day since the liberation of Shanghai.

The 11 months since the city's liberation have demonstrated beyond doubt the important position of labor in society in the new China. These 11 months have been a period of considerable hardship and one in which new difficulties have arisen almost as quickly as old ones were overcome. The KMT blockade, the KMT bombings, the shortage of raw materials, the transportation bottleneck—to mention but a few of the many difficulties which the city has faced and is facing—have all been met and conquered in large measure. In each instance labor has been in the forefront of the attack.

Unless one has been resident in this city during the past year it would be extremely difficult to appreciate the new role of Shanghai's workers. Perhaps the one best example of the new spirit is the current movement among workers of hard-pressed factories for a reduction of their pay. In the old days, such an event was not only never heard of, but never even thought of. If there was any wage cutting, it was done unilaterally by management, over the workers' protests.

Today, however, workers in a number of "hard up" factories have voluntarily suggested to management that they take a temporary pay cut in order to help the factory tide over the difficulties resulting from the blockade, bombings or other KMT legacies.

Shortly after the February 6 air raid which seriously damaged the city's power installations, workers in several factories helped management buy generators by loaning part of their salaries to the company, or by suggesting wage reductions until the generator was paid for.

Naturally, such a spirit would have been impossible under the Kuomintang when it was government policy to suppress the workers as completely as possible and when government authority was always on the side of management. Today the workers know that they have a government which is looking after their best interests. They know that they are now members of the leading class of the country. Thus, they can afford, in difficult times such as have been seen during the past 11 months, to make sacrifices.

The "People's Democratic Dictatorship" has not brought forth any of the horrors which critics of the new government, particularly those abroad, predicted or even claimed had taken place. Rather, the city has got through the past year's well-nigh insurmountable difficulties only because of the spirit, discipline and hard work of Shanghai's working class.

25 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Shanghai's Child Labor

April 25, 1925

As we foreshadowed two weeks ago, in an editorial entitled "Shanghai Child Labor and Civic Responsibility," the shame of the present failure is not that the proposed reforms, which have for their object the freeing of child slaves in territory under foreign control, have been voted down after fair debate for reasons clearly and sufficiently stated, but rather that considerably less than one-quarter of the voters of Shanghai were willing to turn out on a fine spring day to carry out the duty of registering an opinion which, by virtue of wealth, they were entitled to express. As the editor of the North China Daily News remarked in a leader of April 16, "But that it should seem as if Shanghai did not care, as if it could not be bothered, as if, perhaps, the attractions of a fine day and a game of golf were too much to be resisted even for a matter of profound humanity and vital importance, this is indeed tragic."

Kiangnan Dockyard

The new dock at the Kiangnan & Engineering Works, which has been under construction for the last 19 months, was opened last week by the docking of the s.s. "Liberator," a 11,000 ton United States Spinning Board steamer. The "Liberator" measures 430 feet in length with a 56 foot beam. The newly constructed dock is capable of accommodating vessels 500 feet long, 60 feet beam with a drift of 23 feet. The dry dock was designed and constructed by R. B. Mauchan and the entire work was carried out by the Kiangnan Dock & Engineering Works, no outside contractors being employed in the works. The company now has two dry docks and with the modern equipment for pumping and handling of this class of work are in an advantageous position, which considerably increases the facilities, not only of the Kiangnan works but of the port of Shanghai.

10 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

War and the Workers

April 27, 1940

The agents of a criminal war of aggression, such as this, must be looked for like the agents of other crimes, such as murder, among those who are likely to benefit from those crimes. Will the 80,000,000 workers of Japan, the poor farmers, the unemployed industrial workers—will they gain? In the entire history of Wars of Aggression, from the conquest of Mexico by Spain, the capture of India by England, the rape of Ethiopia by Italy, have the workers of those "victorious" countries ever been known to benefit? No, they never benefit by such wars.

Does the Japanese workman benefit by the natural resources of even his own country, by the gold, the silver, the iron, the coal, the oil? Long ago he ceased to possess that natural wealth. It belongs to the rich, the ruling class. The millions who work those mines live in poverty. So how is he likely to benefit by the armed robbery of the gold, silver, iron, coal and oil of China? Will not the rich owners of the one, retain for their own profit the wealth of the other? Have they not always done so?

It would seem inescapable that the militarists and the capitalists of Japan are the only class likely to gain by this mass murder, this authorized madness. That sanctified butcher, that ruling class, the true State stands accused.

From "Wounds" by Dr. Norman Bethune

The Netherlands East Indies

U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull issued the following statement on April 17, setting forth the attitude of the United States Government regarding the Netherlands East Indies:—

"Any change in the status of the Netherlands Indies would directly affect the interests of many countries. The Netherlands Indies are very important in the international relationships of the whole Pacific Ocean. . . . Many countries, including the United States, depend substantially upon them for some of these (essential) commodities. Intervention in the domestic affairs of the Netherlands Indies or any alteration of the status quo by other than peaceful processes would be prejudicial to the cause of stability, peace and security not only in the region of the Netherlands Indies but the entire Pacific area. . . ."

Shanghai's Labor Movement

For more than three decades Shanghai's working class has struggled for emancipation. The city's workers will celebrate their first Labor Day since liberation.

DAY after tomorrow Shanghai will celebrate its first Labor Day since liberation. Aside from the fact that this will be the first time Shanghai's working men and women will be able to commemorate the day publicly without the slightest fear either of imperialist or Kuomintang repression, it will come close to marking the end of the first year of the new administration which is directed by the leaders of the working class.

As the largest city in China and as the country's leading industrial center, Shanghai's labor movement has long been active. For more than three decades the city's workers have stood in the forefront of the Chinese laborers' struggle against the twin evils of oppression: foreign imperialism and internal despotism. A review of the Shanghai labor movement thus seems appropriate at this time.

* * *

WHILE there are historical references to laborers — even to labor "troubles"—dating back many years, the history of the country's labor movement, as we understand the term today, is relatively short.

Although the first modern factory — an arsenal — was established in China in 1862, it was not until 1918, when a number of strikes were called by workers in Shanghai factories, that the history of the active organization of labor in this city commenced.

The leaders of the reform and modernization movements of this period were almost entirely representatives of the student-intelligentsia and infant bourgeois classes. The workers, largely straight from the very backward rural areas, were as yet little affected by the changes which were coming to the country.

Changes During War

However, the growth of industry during the first world war was rapid, as was the growth of a modern proletariat class. Shanghai witnessed its first "modern" strikes in 1918, the largest of which was that of the rickshaw pullers, involving more than 20,000 men. There were numerous other strikes during the year, including four in the Japan-China Cotton Mill, two each in the San Hsin Cotton Mill and the Shanghai No. 2 Cotton Mill and one in the Hou Sheng Cotton Mill.

The majority of these strikes could not be considered as successful, with the chief gain being the discovery by the workers of the power which they possessed in the strike weapon.

The following year, during which Shanghai's workers called their first political strike, was one of even greater development of class consciousness among the city's masses. When news of the arrest of students in Peking following the May 4 Movement reached the city, feelings ran high and a largescale strike involving 70,000 workers was called on June 5. On June 12 the strike ended, following the release of the students and the dismissal of a number of responsible officials from the Peking government.

Perhaps the most important result of this strike was that it brought to the progressive intellectual and bourgeois elements, which were the revolutionary vanguard of the day, realization of the great potential strength and importance of the working class. Hitherto these progressive elements had ignored the political possibilities of allying themselves with the city's workers.

There were more strikes the next year—1920—and labor organization work was speeded up. This year also saw the organization in Shanghai of the Chinese Communist Party which, immediately following its inception, established a labor secretariat in the city to concentrate upon work among the laborers.

In 1922 the labor struggle in Shanghai and other cities had grown to such an extent that the first national labor convention was called for May 1. However, this year also marked the beginning of severe repressive measures against the workers by local management and government, both foreign and Chinese.

The labor secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party was suppressed and its director arrested. The next strike, at the Japan-China Cotton Mill, was broken by the cooperation of management and the local authorities. The strikers were arrested, the union forcibly dissolved, and the leaders fired. When 10,000 women workers in local silk mills struck for higher wages, the strike was broken in three days — largely through the efforts of the police—even though there were sympathy strikes in a number of other industries. By the end of the year, the labor movement was at a very low level. Tricked, beaten, fired, Shanghai's workers were forced to knuckle under.

* * *

IN 1924, however, there was a revival of the working class movement. Dr. Sun Yat-sen's reorganization of the Kuomintang, changes in the Peking government and the popular strike of the workers of the Nanyang Tobacco Company against the management's repudiation of an earlier agreement with its employees served to instill new life into the labor movement.

Union organization on a national basis was begun and delegates of Shanghai's workers participated in the Meeting for the Promotion of the Conference on National Affairs. Thus, officially and openly, the workers entered the national political arena. Meanwhile, the Chinese Communist Party succeeded in resuming some of its previous educational activities among the city's masses.

In 1925 union activity was intensified. On February 2 the workers of the Japanese-owned Naigai Cotton Mill went on strike as a protest against the dismissal of some workers. The workers presented six demands to the management, which ignored them and attempted to break the strike by employing large numbers of guards and thugs. This led to a general strike of 40,000 workers in the 22 Japanese-owned cotton mills in Shanghai and also led to the formation of the city-wide Cotton Mill Workers Union.

Workers joined unions in increasing numbers and gradually unions—although not recognized by law—came to be accepted as bargaining agents for workers in many industries.

May 30 Incident

On May 7, the Japanese mill owners, concerned by the rapid growth of the unions, met together and issued a statement denouncing the unions as "communist organizations" and declared that they would no longer recognize or deal with them. The workers immediately took up the challenge, and strikes and go slow strikes were called at a number of Japanese mills. The Japanese retaliated by dismissing workers on strike, which in turn led to a spreading of the strike fever. This struggle culminated in the May 30 tragedy when repressive measures were taken against the workers, resulting in the killing of Ku Cheng-hung.

The May 30 incident spurred union activity to an even greater pitch. The city's unions banded together and formed the General Labor Union of Shanghai which called a general strike for June 1. Organization work was speeded up. Unions were established in non-union plants and within five days 170 unions joined the General Labor Union. The general strike involved 200,000 workers.

Shanghai's workers were not alone, since a general anti-foreign-imperialist movement developed throughout the country as a result of the May 30 incident. Led by Shanghai's working class, however, the struggle spread beyond its original aim and developed into a movement against warlords, traitors, and the bourgeoisie, as well as against the imperialists. The strike was finally called off after conclusion of a six point agreement with the Japanese mills.

Now thoroughly alarmed, the reactionary elements began plotting an

anti-labor drive to crush the Shanghai workers. Management, in collaboration with the warlords, the imperialists and the working class traitors, hired several hundred gangsters who, pretending to be strikers, assembled in front of the office of the General Labor Uion and tried to wreck it after demanding relief. As a result of this incident, the government, on September 18, 1925, closed the General Labor Union office and suppressed the union. A number of leaders were charged with various crimes, while Liu Hua was assassinated.

Although the repression continued unabated, with arrests, beatings, closures of factories and wholesale dismissals of workers, the labor movement had become too strong to crush. The General Labor Union carried on its work secretly.

It was during this period that the Kuomintang, in alliance with the Chinese Communist Party, was catching the popular imagination and beginning its Northern Expedition.

By February 1927 the local warlord, Sun Chuan-fang, was desperately trying to hold the lid on the city. With connivance from British interests, he inaugurated a whole series of repressive measures designed to subdue Shanghai's workers. As an answer, the General Labor Union called a general strike for February 19 in which it was planned that 150,000 workers would participate. However, within two days the number of strikers had reached 400,000, thus making this the largest strike in China's history.

Sun retaliated with the execution of two machinery workers and a street car conductor who were caught distributing pamphlets. Such retaliatory actions as these convinced the workers of the necessity for armed struggle, and there were a number of incidents in which the workers disarmed the police. However, at the last minute the strike was called off because its leaders, Chou En-lai and Chao Shih-en, decided that preparations were not sufficiently complete.

On March 12, at the close of a conference of the Shanghai masses, the working class, under the direction of the Communist Party, organized an Order Maintenance Corps of 5,000 workers. When the Northern Expedition army reached Shanghai's suburbs, the workers readied their plans for seizing the city.

Workers Seize Arms

On March 21 the call for a general strike was answered by 800,000 workers. Led by the Order Maintenance Corps, attacks were launched upon police stations and military posts. The Nantao district was taken over by the workers after four hours, while the other districts of the city fell after a day's fighting. When the Nationalist troops reached town, they were greeted by the Shanghai workers who had already liberated themselves.

However, the proletariat was not to enjoy the fruit of its victory for long. Immediately after reaching Shanghai, the Kuomintang began plotting to crush the popular revolution upon which it had ridden into power. Chiang Kai-shek, allying himself with the foreign imperialists, who gave him active assistance in many ways including allowing the unhindered passage of gunmen and terrorists through the foreign concessions, and with the feudal landlord and capitalist classes, struck his first blow on April 12.

On the morning of that day, the Workers' Order Maintenance Corps was forcibly disarmed. A workers mass meeting held the next day to protest this move was ambushed by soldiers and police, resulting in the death and injury of a number of workers. The reign of terror, which was to cost the lives of hundreds, had begun.

Unions were raided, labor leaders were imprisoned and shot. The labor movement was driven underground. In 1929 it was realized that the combination of KMT troops, Chinese reaction and foreign imperialism was too strong to combat openly and, following the secret meeting in Shanghai of the Fifth National Labor Congress, a call was issued to advanced workers to go to the rural areas, where the Chinese Communist Party was already engaged in carrying on the struggle. Large numbers of Shanghai workers responded and made significant contributions to the cause of the guerrilla war against the KMT and in the struggle for agrarian reform.

Bleak Decade

The decade from the betrayal of the Shanghai workers by Chiang Kai-shek in 1927 until the outbreak of the war of resistance against the Japanese was one of the bleakest periods in the Shanghai labor movement. Most legitimate labor activity had to be carried out underground. Many Communists and scores of workers were lost in the white terror of this period. Ever on the alert to ferret out underground activities, the KMT filled the factories with spies who regularly turned workers that were "suspect" over to the government secret police.

With the outbreak of the war against Japan, Shanghai's workers again became restive. However, KMT, and later, puppet and Japanese oppression, kept the labor movement largely underground. During this period additional numbers of workers left the city for the ever-growing liberated areas in the countryside.

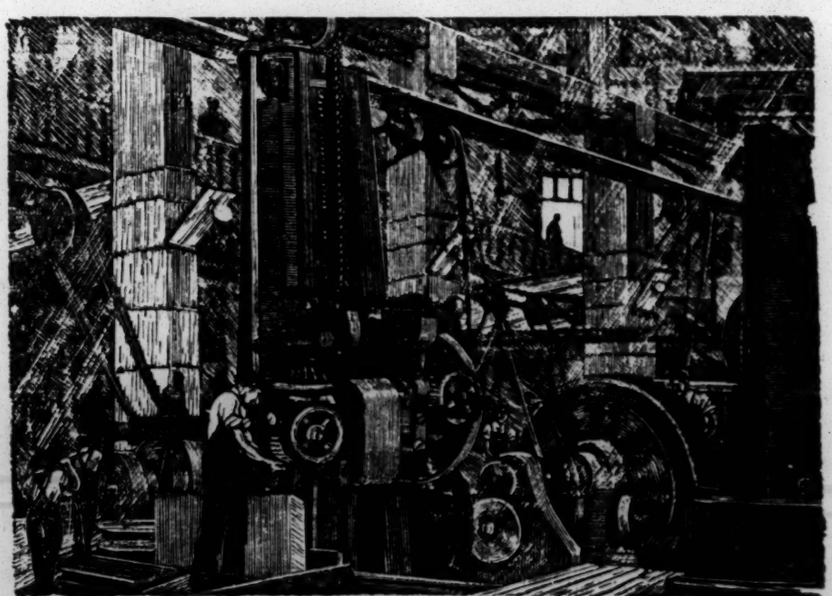
In addition to Japanese military oppression, the workers had to contend with the latter's puppet civilian administration. On top of this, the KMT maintained its secret organizations in the city and, instead of uniting with the Communists and the genuine labor leaders, these KMT groups frequently collaborated with the Japanese and puppets in breaking up progressive underground labor organizations and in hunting down their leaders.

* * *

BY THE time of the victory over Japan, Shanghai's underground labor organization had become toughened and well tempered. PLA guerrillas were operating in the Shanghai suburbs and hopes were high that at long last Shanghai's workers would come into their own.

However, once again victory was denied them. Hardly had the Japanese surrendered before it became evident that the foreign powers, led by the United States, were committed to supporting the reactionary, anti-popular KMT regime of Chiang Kai-shek. The Americans sent open instructions to the Japanese, ordering them to surrender only to Chiang Kai-shek and not to hand over their arms to the people.

Chiang, meanwhile, made a deal with the former puppets of the Japa-



"Factory" by Ma Loh

nese, who changed their insignia and overnight became "Nationalist" troops. In addition, the American Airforce organized a gigantic air lift to fly thousands of Chiang's troops—which the latter had been saving for his already planned civil war — to Shanghai and other strategic centers to take over control from the surrendering Japanese.

Along with the troops Chiang sent a number of labor traitors to take over the labor movement. By such devices as formation of government-sponsored and led unions, which tried to channel the worker's activities along anti-communist lines and the re-institution of the white terror, the KMT hoped to suppress or at least control Shanghai's labor movement. However, although unable to rise up and throw off their oppressors, Shanghai's workers had attained, through their quarter of a century of struggle, such a level of class consciousness that they could not be tricked or defeated as easily as in the past. While they were forced, time and again, during the post-war period to make temporary retreats, they never lost sight of their goal and steadfastly worked toward the victory of the proletariat.

A number of special campaigns launched by the workers during this period deserve mention. Immediately following VJ Day, the KMT closed the Japanese-owned factories in the city, charging that the workers who resisted this closure were "puppet workers." Following demonstrations, the workers succeeded in forcing the KMT to reopen the factories and rehire the old workers. With the Kuomintang came the crippling inflation. Shanghai's workers struggled for and won the cost of living index.

Anti-Civil War Moves

The workers opposed the outbreak of the civil war which was deliberately plotted by the KMT. Organizations were set up for the specific purpose of combatting the war. On June 23, 1948, more than 100,000 workers demonstrated against the war. When the train carrying the Shanghai civic delegation to Nanking to protest the civil war was ordered not to leave, the Shanghai-Nanking Railway workers disobeyed orders and took the train out of the station.

As the civil war began to turn against the KMT, the latter introduced a reign of terror on the city's workers which had never before been equaled in ferocity. Active union members were beaten and killed. When the department store workers were holding a meeting protesting the dumping of cheap American goods on the China market, KMT thugs broke up the gathering, killing one worker and injuring several. Beatings and mass arrests were carried out by the KMT at a number of industrial establishments, including cotton mills, the Shanghai Power Company, the French Tramways, the city bus company and other places.

Just prior to the liberation, when daily "executions" became a commonplace, the workers continued the struggle, organizing committees for the protection of the various industrial plants in the city against Nationalist army destruction and against sabotage by KMT special agents. On the night of the liberation, Shanghai's workers mobilized a fleet of trucks and took them to the suburbs in order to expedite the entry of the PLA into the city.

* * *

HOWEVER, liberation has not brought an end to the problems of Shanghai's workers. Although the proletariat is now the leading class of the nation—its leaders are the leaders of the new government—Shanghai's workers found that much work remains to be done.

Within their own ranks there is much work, particularly in education, needing attention. The severe KMT oppression had long interfered with the carrying out of political, cultural and educational activities among the broad masses. Organization work necessarily had to be conducted in a more or less clandestine manner. Thus, a large number of the city's workers, although possessing the revolutionary spirit, were found to be in need of more education. Instances of left extremism were found, as were cases of opportunism.

On May 31, 1949, just three days after the city's liberation a general meeting of representatives of workers, underground labor leaders and former labor leaders who had been forced to leave the city in the past was held. The main result of the meeting was the organization of the Preparatory Committee for the formation of the Shanghai General Labor Union.

A number of work teams and committees were entrusted with the task of organizing new unions in factories where no union had hitherto existed, in reorganizing old unions, in raising the political consciousness of workers, in exposing reactionary elements, in weeding out KMT agents and so on.

Actual organization work was commenced in those factories where a good basis already existed, resulting either from the previous efforts of underground workers or from old revolutionary union work stretching back through the years. The work in these factories was comparatively easy.

However, in many industrial lines the revolutionary consciousness was not highly developed and feudal influences still held sway. Workers in bath houses, restaurants, hotels and in a number of handicraft industries were among the groups which had to be organized from the ground up.

In some of the factories the work was made particularly difficult because of the presence of reactionary elements, including KMT agents, who did their best to confuse the workers and sabotage the efforts of the union organizers. At times such obstructionist activities were very cleverly carried out by KMT agents who, instead of adopting an openly hostile stand, pretended to go along with the new ideas. These elements would then, while uttering revolutionary slogans, try to twist the direction of the work into channels which could only end in confusion and chaos. One such method was to encourage extreme leftism among workers, with the result that in a few plants workers demanded confiscation of the factory or insisted that since the day of "liberation" had now arrived managers should become workers and workers should become managers.

However, on the whole the organization work went smoothly and more and more new unions were organized and increasing numbers of old unions were reorganized. Reactionary elements were gradually exposed before the mass of the workers; KMT agents were turned up.

By the end of last year, 938,457 workers, representing about 87 percent of the total number of workers in the city, had been organized into new unions. On February 7, 1950, the Shanghai General Labor Union was officially organized. On this day, Shanghai's workers, long in the vanguard of the proletarian struggle, finally came into their own. They were now the city's leading class.

This, however, did not mean the end of the struggle. The Kuomintang blockade, although already much less effective, still presented a serious obstacle which had to be struggled against. Further, on the very eve of the inauguration of the General Labor Union, February 6, KMT bombers succeeded in seriously damaging the city's power installations. Industry was immediately crippled, while even the water supply was reduced. Once again the city's workers were called upon to lead the struggle.

Although the prophets of doom loudly wailed that the power supply could not be restored unless new equipment was secured from the United States, the utility workers, laboring day and night, succeeded in effecting large-scale repairs. Full water supply was resumed within a couple of days and industrial power was almost back to normal in a few weeks, while within two months restrictions on business and residential consumption of electricity were lifted.

Future Is Bright

While the future is indeed bright, much remains to be done and the burden of the job rests upon the shoulders of Shanghai's workers. The attack on Hainan has now begun, while the liberation of Taiwan is a task yet to be undertaken. The devastating effects of last year's floods, particularly the resulting food shortage, continue to be felt. Many industries are still facing a shortage of raw materials, while the rural markets have not yet developed as fully as possible. There is still unemployment. Many factories must be moved from Shanghai to more logical and economic locations.

The battle against reaction has been all but won. The battle for construction and reconstruction must still be fought. However, liberated from their native and foreign oppressors, Shanghai's workers have joined with the rest of China's proletariat to overcome the present difficulties. Ultimate victory is certain.

— TAO WEI-LIEN

Americans Don't Know About China

A Chinese student, returning from the United States, describes some of the misconceptions about China he found among the newspaper-reading public.

AS OUR luxurious liner slid westward through San Francisco's Golden Gate I began to wonder what, after coming home, I should tell my friends about these great United States, and how. One way would be to talk about crime and moral deterioration and the influence of big money and conclude: this is America. But the folks back home would be eager to learn about the heroic fight for a new America led by Henry Wallace, and I would have copies of the *National Guardian*, the progressive organ, to draw my material from. Admiration of the high standard of living and the public concern for civic welfare, of course, has been expressed over and over again.

Each course seemed all right, but incomplete. Writers have spent years preparing volumes on the various aspects of American life, and I told myself not to try anything big in a hurry.

However, one thing I am sure about: I resided in the United States as a Chinese national when China attracted more attention in that country than ever before. I have therefore come to notice the way, or rather the ways, Americans feel about China these days.

In America, I am reluctant to report, I have found more misunderstanding than understanding of new China. I do not blame the American public, which is led to misunderstand rather than to understand us. I blame the newspapers and radio broadcasting systems, whose number is great, that are almost daily selling misconceptions about China to the average American, who finds little time to read Teddy White or Jack Belden.

The biggest and most ridiculous lie is that the people now running China are a group of foreigners. Nobody would say this explicitly. Yet the attempt on the part of the "molders of public opinion" to produce such an impression is unmistakable.

The "Foreigners" Line

When it became certain that the Chiang regime would lose Central China to the People's Liberation Army, the *Saturday Evening Post*, a magazine enjoying a nationwide circulation of several millions, came up with an amusing editorial. Seemingly based on good historical knowledge, the editorial said that all China's former invaders had been "assimilated" by the Chinese—they adopted the Chinese customs, language, governmental system, etc. The "Communists," it continued, would be "assimilated" in like manner. The writer did not bother to identify the "Communists" as Russian, Chinese, or American. But by comparing them to those who invaded China in the past, he obviously implied that they were foreigners.

Coincidentally, if not as a concerted action, other publications joined the chorus. In headlines at least, you would find the "Reds" or the "Red Army" as the attackers or invaders and "China" and the "Chinese" the attacked or invaded. Very few newspapers in very few cases would even bother to identify the nationality of the "Reds" in their headlines. When military operations were reaching the concluding stage all over the Chinese mainland, newspaper editorials said in various ways that China was "finished" or "gone." I heard Dr. Walter Latenschleiger, for 40 years a missionary in China, retort indignantly: "Four hundred and fifty million people—all finished at once?" He was addressing some 1,000 people in a church building in Madison, Wisconsin. The size of his audience hardly compared with that of the American newspaper-reading and radio-listening public. Besides, the two local papers did not quote this part of his address.

From that time on, in talks with American friends, we Chinese somehow got the feeling that we were being regarded as refugees or exiles. An elderly, well-educated lady once asked me if Madame Chiang was going back to China. I said she didn't seem to be going at the moment. "That's not very patriotic," she replied. Certain other American friends of mine, however, looked at me suspiciously when I told them that I was going back to China; they probably thought that it would be more "patriotic" for me to stay in America as an exile and keep away from that batch of invaders. Had they remembered the papers better they would have asked me whether I was going to Formosa or the mainland and judged my "patriotism" by that standard.

At the time of my departure from the United States, "famine in China" and "starvation by the Reds" were the order of the day in the news world. As far as I can trace the story back, the *Chicago Tribune* should be credited with starting publication of such stories. When Shanghai was yet in Nationalist hands, the *Tribune* printed a story saying that the Communists would starve many Chinese when they took over. All the Shanghai-datelined story, written by Walter Simmons, could quote was an article by a Shanghai professor known to me to be of the Malthus school. Since the Malthus theory, as commonly understood, is always incompatible with communism, the one advocating salvation of mankind by cutting the population and the other seeing the solution in the redistribution of the means of production, the professor couldn't possibly have been pronouncing the viewpoint of the Chinese Communists. Furthermore, as evident from the *Tribune* story itself, the professor didn't propose to starve anybody but merely pointed out the seriousness of what seemed to him the overpopulation in China. However, the *Tribune* dispatch declared the the professor was a fellow traveller and starvation seemed the only solution to overpopulation, and the Communists were likely to try such a solution.

Bad News Blamed on "Reds"

Quite often China gets the front page or top spot on the radio. When she does, quite often it's a starvation story, and "starvation by the Reds." When my landlady heard it on the radio in the kitchen she would come to my door and report it with a startled and sympathetic look. I would explain a little and she would say: "So, being a newspaperman yourself you don't believe the reports, eh?"

Newspapers and the radio broadcasting systems, in effect if not on purpose, are teaching many Americans to assume automatically that the Chinese Communists are responsible for any bad news that comes from China. When news came through that the s.s. "Flying Cloud" had been shelled along the China coast, not a few people thought that the warships that fired on it were "Communist," not Nationalist. I myself ran across such a group of less well-educated Americans who were nevertheless regular newspaper readers. They were talking about the vessel's having been shelled by "the Communists" and I tried to convince them, by showing them the

Chao I-hoh is a young Chinese newspaperman just returned from the United States where he has spent the last three years studying at the University of Wisconsin's journalism school at Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Chao, a graduate of the University of Nanking, an American-sponsored school, worked on the China Weekly Review and, later, on the Nanking Hsin Min Pao before going to America for further studies. He is one of the many Chinese who have been returning from abroad in recent months to participate in construction and reconstruction work in the new China. — Editor

account in the papers. They wouldn't believe me.

In fact, no report ever said the Chinese Communists fired on the "Flying Cloud." But readers were so used to stories of "Communist misbehavior" that they found it difficult to believe that the Communists didn't do it. What was printed in black and white seemed less "sensible" than the version that they read into the text.

No Place for Chinese

Many Americans intelligent on other matters seem to be pretty well sold on the notion that China is a mess and it is dangerous to go there, even for the Chinese themselves. Just before I left the States, I met on the train to San Francisco a very likable American army officer. He had spent all his post-war years in Germany and was being transferred to Japan. He talked with elegant rhetoric and in an agreeable manner and certainly not from the "American viewpoint" of the *Time-Life-Fortune* school. Economically, he said, Europe was recovering "very slowly." As far as he could see, the average European felt that the Marshall Plan was helping the industrialists all right but couldn't make out how it was helping himself.

We were pretty much in agreement on everything until I told him that I was going back to China. He wondered why I should be going at such a time and if I wasn't taking "considerable risk." I said everything was okay over there and I would try to serve my country now that she was starting to rebuild herself. After quite a pause, he said: "I don't know how I would feel if I were in your shoes. It may not be as great a risk as we think." I thought he was as understanding as he could be and nodded my agreement.

Even the US White Paper, which sums up America's bitter experience in China, makes no attempt to clarify the picture for the public. It says the Chinese revolution is "indigenous" at one place and calls its leaders "tools of Soviet Russia" at another. The newspapers, naturally, played up the latter statement in reporting the content of the White Paper. The average American does not have time to go over the voluminous collection of documents, and that is all it means to him.

Already American newspapers have coined the term "bamboo curtain" with reference to the barrier between new China and the Western world. A curtain, if I may venture to define it, is used to screen the truth from the public eye and inevitably produce instead falsehood, be it iron or bamboo or Douglas fir from Oregon. But who, I wonder, is building up a curtain and on which side of the Pacific?

— CHAO I-HOH

The story of a shipwrecked PLA unit

The Stormy Sea

by Ch'iao Fu-ts'uen
translated by Shih Fang-yü

IT was on the morning of last December 5 that a terrifying thing happened to a certain Liberation Army unit that was at sea on navigation training.

The gulf where they were training was usually stormy. That day, the wind rose and raised a heavy sea. A ship, under the command of Captain Kao Wen-pin, of the Ninth Company, carrying 42 men, was carried away by the wind.

Ships of all classes were dispatched to search for them. The search went on for seven, eight days. . . not a shadow of the lost ship was seen. Everybody in headquarters thought, "They're finished," but still everyone held a forlorn hope in his heart. . . "Maybe they'll come back some day." And the political officers of headquarters, the brigade and the company, all expressed their willingness to their superiors to bear punishment for the loss of the ship.

Colonel Sun Kuang-chien, as he went along the sea road at night, lighting bonfires, faced the boundless sea and sighed. "Perhaps they're still alive. The best thing would be if they were blown to an island free of the enemy, but inhabited by farmers. But it's been more than 10 days. What have they got to eat? I'm afraid they're hungry. . . maybe starving to death."

He returned to his quarters and lay on his bed. He twisted and turned, but couldn't sleep. One by one, each familiar face appeared before his eyes. Forty-two lively young fellows, all fine soldiers: Captain Kao, Lieutenant Chao, Second Lieutenants Chang and Hsieh. . . they were all heroic fighters, experienced in actual combat. To prepare themselves for the liberation of Taiwan, they had gone through very hard amphibious training, day after day and night after night. Their uniforms had been almost constantly wet with sweat and sea water. . . to miss being in the battle for Taiwan, to end this way! What a pity!

* * *

THAT day at sea, the first platoon found the wind blowing stronger and stronger. On deck, it was impossible to open one's eyes. The small boat was tossed on the crests of waves more than 20 feet high, which wrenched the tiller out of one's grasp and let the boat pitch and roll in the confusion of wind and wave. Most of the comrades fainted; some vomited up everything they had eaten, and then retched up blood. The hold smelt foul. Suddenly someone cried out, "There's a hole in the bottom!" Second Lieutenant Hsieh courageously crawled out, ran over, took off his shoes, and stuck his bare foot in the hole, telling a man to fetch a kettle quickly and bail. The responsible spirit of a Party member kept him there, as if nailed to the spot, without moving a muscle.

Finally, Second Lieutenant Chang had the good idea of getting a log of firewood, wrapping it with cotton, and plugging the hole with it. Lieutenant Hsieh breathed a sigh of relief and said, "Thanks to you, old man, I've been liberated. . . "

When the storm abated, the captain ordered the men to cast anchor. But the cable parted. The boat drifted on, and in the midst of the furious struggle of tempest and wave, Captain Kao encouraged himself: "The strength of a leader lies in his silence. Above all things, I must be calm. If I make a misstep, 42 lives will be lost!" So he sat, imperturbably smoking, puffing away calmly; the men, from time to time craning their necks to look at their captain, saw him sitting and smoking calmly, and, reassured, lay down again. Toward evening, the boat was blown to a lonely island.

Lieutenant Hsieh took four men to search the island, and found that it was about 600 yards long, from east to west, and 100 yards wide, north to south. There were two hills, from whose summits the whole island could be seen. There were only two pathways. The only inhabitants were a father and son, who cultivated a small plot of sweet potatoes.

The captain ordered Lieutenant Chang, with the third platoon, to guard the boat, while he went to buy sweet potatoes for supper.

They were just about to eat when they heard a burst of machinegun fire. The machinegun platoon found that the fire came from an enemy boat less than a mile to the south. They didn't wait for orders, but returned the fire and drove off the boat.

Lieutenant Chang was ordered to take the third platoon, with an extra machinegun, and camp on the eastern hill, on sentinel duty. They were given one of the four torn coverlets brought from the ship. They found a place protected from the wind on two sides, and sat shoulder to shoulder, their legs all together, covered with the torn quilt.

The next morning, when they prepared to leave, they suddenly discovered that the boat had been thrown on the rocky reef by the waves, and was already smashed beyond hope. What was to be done? There was no other way but to stay temporarily on the island. But that also presented many problems. What would they eat? Where would they sleep? How to prepare for enemy attacks? How to keep up the men's morale?

To meet the changed circumstances, they regrouped. Since food was the greatest problem on that wild island the artillerymen, under the platoon commander, were put in charge of foraging. The machinegunners and

riflemen were divided into three groups and stationed separately. The farmer's hut was made the kitchen, as well as general headquarters. Every group had to put up its own matshed as sleeping quarters. The captain collected everyone's matches, and took charge of them. From that night on, they ate congee, made of one-third shredded sweet potatoes and two-thirds leaves of the plant boiled in water. This was enough for two "meals" a day.

Three days went by, but neither our ships, junks, or enemy ships came. The spirits of some of the men began to waver. On the third day, the provisional Party group held its first executive meeting. It called upon all Party members to show their traditional heroism and to study the unyielding spirit of Comrade Ch'en Shang.

"Comrade Ch'en Shang, with only one leg, held his position on Chu Lai Mountain for more than a year. Today we have 42 pair of legs; can't we hold out till victory? If the Red Army men ate their leather belts on the Long March, can't we surmount our difficulties on sweet potato gruel?"

"That ought to be good for a day's food," said a machinegunner pointing to the strap on his gun, and everybody roared.

* * *

ON the fourth day, the sentries reported four boats approaching from the east, which seemed to be enemy vessels. Each group took up its respective position and prepared for combat.

"Don't fire until they have landed," the captain ordered. "We must seize some boats."

The four boats stopped about a mile from shore. From the island, it seemed that several ragged soldiers were standing in the bow of one of the ships, waving a piece of torn blue cloth which on careful examination turned out to be a Kuomintang flag. They didn't fire, but blew bugles and shouted so confusedly that no one could understand what they were saying.

After a while, something dropped from one of the boats, and two men were seen paddling a raft toward shore. As they drew up, the commander covered them with his rifle and ordered them to stop.

"Don't shoot!" they cried waving a piece of white cloth, "We came to your rescue."

The captain ordered them ashore. It was evident that they were two sailors who had been captured by the KMT. They brought a letter, which said, ". . . If you don't surrender, you will starve to death. Come over, and each man will be promoted three ranks . . . if not, we will wire the President, who will send air and naval forces and exterminate the lot of you!"

The captain thought this was a good chance to induce the enemy ashore, so he called Lieutenant Hsieh and Little Wu, who knew the local dialect, to talk to the two sailors.

"Come on! We need you to save us! Come on over . . . !"

They shouted a long time, but the enemy didn't dare to come a step nearer.

Lieutenant Hsieh, dizzy and out of breath, came and reported to the captain. "They won't come. What shall we do?" Then he thought of an excellent plan. "Give me two grenades," he demanded, "and I'll go out on a raft and find out if they dare to die."

"You'd only be sacrificing yourself for nothing," the captain said.

The enemy aboard the boats could see nobody on the island except the captain and the lieutenant. They couldn't discover how many men there were ashore. After hesitating a long time, they turned and fled.

According to what the two sailors said, they were part of Huang Pa Mei's gang, which was holed up on an island about three miles away. Altogether, they numbered about 80 men, and had 19 craft.

The raft which carried the two sailors ashore inspired us to make rafts for our own use. Our Island Headquarters decided to send messengers by raft.

* * *

THE only inhabitants of the island were the father and son. They shook with fear the first day they saw the men of the first platoon. They knew nothing of the difference between the Kuomintang and the Communist Parties. The only things they knew about were their small plot of sweet potatoes and their 10 chickens. During the past 10 years or more, pirates had frightened them very much. And about six years before, the Japanese devils had come, who stole their chickens.

During those years the KMT gangs came too. They called themselves the "Nationalist Army," and stole his dried potatoes and chickens. Though life had been hard indeed in those days, yet father and son had managed to survive.

When these new soldiers said that they would *buy* his sweet potatoes, and didn't steal his rice and chickens, the old man was greatly astonished.

"Why? They buy our potaoes with money. Why?" he whispered to his son, quietly.

* * *

BUT as time went on, father and son saw that the soldiers had no idea of leaving. They worried in their hearts and thought, "If they stay another ten days and eat like this, all our food for this year will be finished." So they went and complained to the captain.

"Uncle," he said, "we really don't want to stay here any longer, but our boat was wrecked and we have no way to leave. Anyhow, we'll be able to go back some day, and we'll bring you white rice in exchange for the food we've eaten." So he tried to console the old man.

But father and son, afraid that the more than 40 men would stay on indefinitely, did their best to eat as much of the remaining food as they could, even to the salted fish they had hidden away! But each time they ate, they would sit down and weep bitterly.

The soldiers couldn't understand this behavior, and jokingly said, "They eat so much, they must have a belly ache."

Meanwhile, local KMT gangs had come twice, but had been repulsed by heavy fire. Others sailed around constantly, but they didn't dare to land. So the old man came to realize that these soldiers were brave and invincible. But why, he wondered, were they so relentless toward the KMT forces, and so honest with the two of them?

Gradually, the old man became acquainted with the soldiers. He heard many new things from them, like "Liberation Army," "Communist Party," "Chairman Mao," and so on. Whenever the soldiers held meetings, they spoke constantly about Chairman Mao, so the old man judged that Chairman Mao must be an even better man.

* * *

WANG Wen Chan, a soldier with comparatively more experience on the water, volunteered to take the responsibility of building a raft. The captain gave him permission to go ahead. He was joined by Second Lieutenant Chang, Li Yu Yü, and others.

Wang Wen Chan studied day and night the best way to build the raft. He asked questions of the old man,

Distributing relief clothing to flood victims—*Giefang Rhbao*

and even murmured in his dreams at night, "How to make it. . . . Two big poles on each side..." At last, after much study, they thought of a plan.

It was very hard to find an axe, but when they found one, they decided to dismantle the wrecked boat and to use the mast, cut into three pieces, as the frame for the raft. On the fifth day they began to build the raft. No matter how penetrating the wind or how cold the water was, they crouched at the sea shore and worked.

Wang Wen Chan, with the small axe, had to cut through the mast, which was a foot and a half in diameter. His stomach was always groaning with hunger because of the thin diet of potato gruel. From time to time his eyes would go black and, exhausted, he would fall down in a faint.

When he recovered from these blackouts, he felt as if he had no strength left; but as soon as he thought of the words of the sergeant of the machinegun platoon, who said, "This time, you must stand the test well, so that you can be admitted into the Party," he felt renewed strength in his body, and set to work again with his axe.

Finally, on the seventh day, the raft was completed.

* * *

IN the captain's quarters, they discussed who was to be chosen to take the message to headquarters. This was a very difficult and grave duty, involving the lives of the whole group.

From the day he started work on the raft, Comrade Chang Li Hsüeh decided that he wanted to be the messenger. At the meeting, he said, "As long as I live, I guarantee that I'll succeed in this task."

The captain asked, "Who is that?"

"It is I," Comrade Chang answered.

The captain gazed at him carefully from top to toe and nodded. At last, it was decided to send Chang Li Hsüeh, Li Yu Yü and the two sailors back with the message.

The captain and the lieutenant suggested that a rice meal should be prepared for the messengers that night. They had not had enough to eat for seven or eight days, and a good farewell dinner would help them to carry out their task.

As the messenger group was eating, the captain told them: "When you reach headquarters, get back here as soon as you can. Be sure and bring rice to return to the old man. You know that what you're eating here was borrowed from him with his consent."

Then he turned to the old man. "We already know that you hid two containers of rice and 10 chickens on the hill, but we wouldn't touch them, not even if we were starving to death," he said.

The old man uttered not a single word, but simply gazed in astonishment and wonder at these "strangers."

SINCE the wind was not right, the opinion of the sailors was to wait for a favorable wind before starting. They watched the wind closely, but a strong northwest wind continued to blow.

At last, they decided to leave, wind or no wind.

The thin and weak soldiers, chanting, pulled the great heavy raft into the water.

As soon as the messengers boarded the raft, those on shore shouted to them, "When you come back, bring a lot of bread!"

"Don't forget the password for your return. Get back soon," the captain repeated, over and over again.

"Don't worry, captain, so long as I have breath left in me, I'll get through," shouted Comrade Chang, waving from the raft.

The next day, Lieutenant Hsieh went around to every group and led them in singing; it was the happiest day since they had come to the island.

Then Lieutenant Hsieh suggested that everybody make two pair of chopsticks, "a long pair for noodles and a short pair for dumplings when we get home." And so everybody began busily to make chopsticks.

* * *

EVERYONE in the three platoons estimated that the messengers would return to the island that night, except slant-eyed Ch'en Chung Hsin, who said, "How can it be so quick! When they get back, the company must report to the battalion, the battalion to the regiment, the regiment to the division, and the division to to Army Headquarters. And at the same time, our comrades will have to go get the rice, the cook must make the bread....Won't it take a lot of time to do all this?"

Then the others all said, "Well, then when do you think they'll get back here?"

"Tomorrow afternoon," Ch'en Chung Hsin replied, rolling his slant-eyes up toward the sky. He seemed to be quite sure of his prediction. He was an optimistic fellow, a good talker, who always amused the others, and was nicknamed "Happy."

Each platoon sent a man to watch the sea, in order to report as soon as the messengers returned. But the first day passed, and not a shadow of a ship was seen; and the afternoon of the second day saw the sky covered with black clouds.

On the third day, the northwest wind howled and it rained cats and dogs. The men, were all out gathering wild vegetables, with heavy hearts.

Toward evening, the high wind blew harder, and it seemed as if it wanted to sweep away the island. The matsheds swayed in the storm, and the rain dripped from the roofs in streams, and everybody was wet from head to foot. Shivering with cold, they clasped their guns to their chests and huddled back to back to try to keep warm.

The third day passed, but the messengers had still not returned.

THE soldiers made nine bonfires at night, to show that they were of the Ninth Company, and another one some way off to show that they were the First Platoon.

On the eleventh day since they had landed on the island, a meeting of the branch headquarters was held in a straw hut. The meeting was called because a soldier named Ch'en Yung had begun to waver, and was saying, "Let's decide whether we're going to live or die, and get it over with quickly!" The branch headquarters therefore called upon all the Party members to encourage everyone to maintain the strong willpower of the PLA, in order to overcome all the difficulties.

No ship came, and everybody began to think that the messengers had been lost.

It was Ch'en Chung Hsin's opinion that the two sailors were really KMT secret agents, who had turned on Lieutenant Chang and Little Li and murdered them. The barber, Little Chen, put in that on that very night, he had heard cries from the east which had sounded to him like the voice of Lieutenant Chang. Others guessed that they had possibly met the enemy on the way, or that the raft had overturned.

But the captain said, "It isn't certain at all. Maybe at home, they have already held a memorial service for us; but we're still alive, aren't we?"

* * *

LIFE became harder and harder. They had eaten all the wild vegetables, potato leaves, and even the stems. At last, they even ate the leaves dug from under the human fertilizer that had been spread on the potato plants.

On the 18th day, the Branch Executive Committee held its third meeting. It decided upon three possibilities. The first, because it seemed better to die in battle than starve to death, was to try and wipe out the pirates on the eastern island, seize their boats, and return to headquarters. The second was to send messengers again. The third was to try to get back to headquarters on individual rafts, all linked together by a rope.

The three plans were discussed in each platoon. Comrade Hsieh insisted on the first one. "Fight, fight, fight! Anyone who doesn't fight isn't a man." He didn't agree at all with the third plan. "Anyone floating around in the sea in December might get home, but he'd only be an icicle when he got there."

As a result of all the discussion, it was decided to follow the first plan. So every possible board and pole was collected, and the men began to build rafts. Platoons challenged each other, and one man challenged another, to build the best raft.

* * *

WHEN Chang Li Hsueh and the others set off, they found both wind and current against them. The two sailors rowed, but although they put forth all their strength, the raft headed east instead of northwest. The heavy sweep that served as a

rudder was too buoyant and couldn't be kept under the surface, so it was next to useless for steering.

"Bad luck right at the start," thought Comrade Chang, anxiously.

Rudderless, they had to go with the wind and current, so they were happy when, about midnight, the wind veered toward the northwest. The raft rapidly drifted in the direction of Hope; and Chin Shan Island, only about three miles from their destination, gradually came into sight. They floated nearer, and already the headlights of cars on the sea road were very clear.

"Lieutenant, we'll be back at dawn," said Little Li, "and they'll probably die of joy when they see us."

Chang Li Hsueh, smoking his potato leaf tobacco, smiled so broadly that he had to take the pipe from his mouth.

Unfortunately, a little after four in the morning, the evil northwest wind started to blow again, and the tide began to ebb. The raft was swept backward again.

Later that morning, they decided to anchor until the wind changed. But the wind didn't turn; it only blew great guns in the same direction. The sky was one mass of black clouds. "If it rains, it'll be even worse," Comrade Chang thought; and it was worse. It began to pour about three that afternoon. They sat in the sea wash all that night.

The next afternoon, the anchor rope broke. The storm was more violent than the first one had been. The raft, totally out of control, was tossed about by waves over 20 feet high and was in danger of being overturned. The compass and sweep were carried away. The men clung tightly to a strong pole.

The storm raged incessantly for a day and a night. They had had nothing to eat or drink for two days, and suffered from thirst. The sailors' hands, rubbed raw, were covered with blood blisters.

Losing all sense of direction, they drifted purposelessly for more than three days, without sighting a single island. But on the fourth night, they heard birds singing above their heads.

"An island!" the sailors cheered, but Comrade Chang had heard nothing. He lay, half-dead from hunger and exhaustion, his feet greatly swollen. Little Li, seeing him like that, wept bitterly, and so did the sailors.

"Don't cry. I'm not going to die," said Chang, struggling to rise. But when Little Li only cried the more bitterly, he shouted, "Little Li! Are you afraid of death?"

"No, I'm not afraid of death," said Little Li, "but if you should die, I'm afraid I couldn't finish our task and our comrades on the island would perish."

At dawn, an island appeared, and they could make out men in civilian clothes. Chang's heart pounded. "What's this island?" he asked the sailors. They mentioned the name of an island that was occupied by the enemy.

Chang turned to Little Li. "Little Li, this is our chance to sacrifice ourselves. Get ready, don't let them get us too cheaply. Save your last bullet for yourself."

"Yes, sir," Little Li replied, I'll die with you."

The sailors prayed to the spirits of heaven and sea to protect them.

They drew nearer, and could see everything on land very clearly. The people they had caught sight of had disappeared. Gradually they approached a small cave.

Little Li suddenly jumped up. "Hurrah!" he shouted at the top of his lungs. "They're our own men!" The comrades ashore, seeing their cap badges, waved furiously; but Chang Li Hsueh had dropped down, unconscious.

* * *

ARMY Headquarters, Department Two, received a telegram from X Army, A Division: "TWO MESSENGERS REACHED HERE FROM PLATOON OF X REGIMENT LOST DURING AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING." The news spread swiftly through the regiment, battalion and company. Regimental headquarters phoned time after time to battalion headquarters: "Are you ready to start? Go as quickly as you can!" Major Sun busily called for charts, called orderlies, assigned a ship and men, and ordered bread to be baked.

Following the chart, the ship found the island the first day out; but those aboard could see nobody on the island and didn't dare to go ashore recklessly.

Another ship was sent the following day. This time a party landed and searched the island from end to end; but they found nothing but a shovel, an ammunition case, and a single shoe.

The hearts of the men in the searching party fell. They guessed that their lost comrades had been wiped out by the enemy, but there wasn't a trace of a battle on the island, no bodies, no cartridges.

On the 19th day, Chang Li Hsueh and Li Yu Yü reported at Headquarters. The chief officer of Department Two told them the result of the search, and their hearts froze and they felt dizzy when they heard the news.

"An ammunition case and a shoe. . . . ?" Chang Li Hsueh muttered. "It's all up with them. . . . they must have attacked the enemy on the eastern island. There were some who suggested an attack. The whole platoon wiped out. . . . I hate myself for having wasted four days floating around on the sea..." He sat down, brokenhearted.

"What did you find to eat?"

"We ate sweet potatoes from the farmer's plot," answered Chang.

"What! There are people there?" the commander asked, astonished.

Chang Li Hsueh raised his head. "Yes. A father and son."

The officer quickly grabbed a chart and asked, "Where's their hut?"

"At the west end," said Chang Li Hsueh, more calmly.

"Ah! Maybe we made a mistake; the island we found had no house or people."

Chang Li Hsueh looked at the chart. Remembering as best he could his four days at sea, where he set sail, that they had drifted northwest, he pointed to an island. "Is it this one?"

The officer looked at it carefully. There was a North X Island and a South X Island. He asked, "Is there an island south of these two?"

"Yes, there's another island about a mile off South X Island."

Major Sun dragged Chang Li Hsueh off immediately. They boarded a ship that was just setting sail.

* * *

THE 40 people's fighters weren't dead. On the contrary, they were very much alive and were actually preparing for battle. It was on the 15th day that they saw a ship heading towards them, and they all thought it was an enemy vessel. The comrades, haggard and yellow, took up their positions when they heard the order to prepare for battle.

Shortly they discovered another two ships bearing down on them from the northwest. The captain told his men: "It seems that today the enemy wants to give up the ghost. From here, it looks like a plot. Comrades! Now we have a chance to take our ships!"

As the ships came up close, is seemed to the waiting men that they heard shouts: "Old Kao!" and then "Little Chen! Little Chen!" Surely they were calling the captain and the correspondent! Captain Kao stood up, gazed, and then burst out: 'Isn't that the major on board?" And suddenly he was running and shouting, "Our major has come! Our major has come!" All the men followed, rushing to the shore.

The major, seeing their hollow eyes and long hair, could hardly keep his tears back.

Captain Kao Wen Pin tightly grasped Major Sun's hand, and the first words he said were, "Major, it was all my fault. I shouldn't be a captain."

But the major replied, "No, the fault is mine; I have no right to the rank of major."

They brought 300 kilos of white rice to the old man, who didn't know what to say, and accepted it with tears of gratitude.

The soldiers bade farewell to the old man and quickly boarded the ship. The major shook hands with each man, who lowered his head embarrassedly. Lieutenant Chang got cigarettes and passed them out, saying, "Comrades, let's first have a smoke, and wake ourselves up!" Everybody took from his pockets the potato-leaf "tobacco" and threw it over the side. Then oranges and sugar-cane were distributed to the men.

As the ship set sail for "Home," the old man stood on the hill, waving the axe, and shouting, "It served you will!"

As they approached their destination, the major ordered all the signal shells fired. The sky sparkled with myriads of red, white and purple streaks, the signal of our victorious return. They lighted the sea and the sky, the hearts of 42 people's soldiers, and their gleam presaged a brilliant future.

CHINA AFFAIRS

MILITARY

Big Hainan Drive

THE powerful campaign for the liberation of Hainan island, off the southern coast of China, is in full swing. Following four small scale landings during March, a large scale amphibious landing operation began on April 17. The forces involved immediately broke through the KMT defense line in Chung Pei and routed the bulk of the Kuomintang troops attached directly to the 319th regiment of the 131st division of the 64th Army.

The landings on April 17 occurred in many places. Like well shot arrows, PLA vessels hit the Hainan coast at Linkaoko, Popu Bay, northeast of Linkow county seat, Linshih Bay and Shenyeshan, north of Tsingmai county seat. In the fighting which followed the PLA broke through crumbling KMT defenses in the northern part of the island and defeated the 301st regiment of the 64th Army which garrisoned the area.

Another PLA force routed two Kuomintang regiments at Fookshan townlet, 25 miles southwest of Hoihow. The KMT had rushed the regiments from Hoihow by motor vehicle in order to reinforce the shattered north Hainan defense line. Fookshan was liberated on April 17.

In the March operations, which laid the groundwork for the present pace of battle on Hainan, 2,000 Kuomintang troops were taken prisoner. Captured material included 17 artillery pieces, 132 light and heavy machine guns and 800 rifles and pistols.

All officers and men of the PLA Fourth Field Army on the Hainan front, which succeeded in landing on the island on April 17, sent a telegram to Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh and the commanders of the Fourth Field Army. The message pledged to speedily and thoroughly wipe out all remnant Kuomintang troops on the island and to liberate Hainan in coordination with the people's armed forces and all the people on the island.

Sikang Mopped Up

THE mopping up of the last considerable pocket of organized Kuomintang remnant troops on the China mainland has taken place in Sikang province. More than 10,000 men were killed, wounded or taken prisoner within a fortnight of the launching of this campaign, according to a communique of the PLA Southwest China Military Headquarters.

Considerable war material was captured and among the high ranking KMT officers, one army group commander, Hu Chang-shing; one chief of staff, Lo Lieh; and one army commander and two divisional commanders were captured. According to *NCNA*, considerable hope had been pinned on these KMT remnant forces in Sikang. After Chengtu, capital of Szechuen province, was liberated last December 27, scattered KMT troops fled to Sichang county in Sikang where warlord Ho Kuo-kwang gathered them together in a desperate effort to build a KMT base in that area. On January 28, General Hu Tsung-nan was flown from Hainan to take charge of southwest China and rumor had it that considerable KMT forces were still operating on the mainland.

In mid-March, the PLA opened operations in Sikang and by the 27th had occupied Sichang and spent the following 11 days in rooting out the remaining groups of the KMT troops who were in the area. The rapidity of the PLA advance took the KMT unawares and shattered their last military hope on the mainland.

80,000 Special Agents

MORE than 80,000 KMT special service men were dealt with by the public security enforcement authorities in conjunction with the PLA during the past year. This was revealed by Li Shih-ying, head of the Public Security Department of the East China Military-Political Commission, at a public security conference.

According to incomplete statistics, 7,292 KMT agents were rounded up in 1,783 cases and 276 clandestine radio stations were seized during the past years. A large quantity of weapons, documents and files was also seized during many raids. Campaigns of this nature, conducted during the year, were said to have resulted in smashing up what the KMT had boasted were "guerilla bases."

Throughout the year armed KMT special service men, some of whom are still hiding out, have tried to fabricate rumors, agitate among the population through the medium of feudalistic and superstitious organizations and attempt to re-establish the "Sino-American Special Service Agency." Their aim, it was claimed, was to attempt to destroy the people's democracy by starting off with a campaign of assaults, assassinations and other destructive activities.

As this issue was going to press reports were current that the Kuomintang forces on Hainan were disintegrating rapidly. Unconfirmed, but entirely probable reports described a condition similar to that prevailing in Shanghai on the eve of liberation, with all available means of escape being jammed by Kuomintang officials and commanders.

Meanwhile, from other parts of China came reports of celebrations and messages of congratulation being sent to the PLA units engaged in the Hainan campaigns, as well as to the people's forces on the island.

NATIONAL

CCP Directive

A RESOLUTION of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party calling for a start in criticism and self-criticism regarding newspapers and periodicals reads in part:

"The masses will be encouraged to publicly criticize the defects and faults in our work in newspapers and periodicals and educate our party members. Self-criticism by party cadres in newspapers and periodicals regarding these defects and faults have become particularly important at the present moment, inasmuch as military activities have been concluded on the mainland and our party has assumed political leadership of the nation. The defects and faults in our work very easily endanger the interests of the broad masses ... if we cannot publicly criticize and self-criticize the defects and faults of the People's Government and its economic organs and associations on the spot, in the party and before the people, we shall be seriously poisoned by bureaucracy and shall not be able to complete our task of building a new China.

" . . . Even if criticism and suggestions are not wholly correct, they shall not be ridiculed . . . therefore, the various grades of guiding organs and cadres must assume the revolutionary attitude of welcoming and honoring the opinion and criticism of the masses... The kind of criticism we encourage is that which comes from the masses of people (especially the workers and peasants) for promoting and consolidating national reconstruction and not destructive criticism aimed at the obstruction of the people's democracy . . . Editors, reporters, correspondents and newspaper reading groups shall welcome and guide correct criticism but must be against destructive criticism. They shall reject such destructive criticism, especially that coming from the anti-revolutionists for the obstruction of a dictatorship by the people's democracy."

The resolution, in its efforts to lay the foundation for periodic and effective carrying out of self-criticism, laid down various measures to be strictly enforced by the party committees of different levels and party newspaper workers, including a measure that stated reporters and editors should assume independent responsibility for criticism carried in their journals. This is in contrast to former procedure whereby it had been the practice to submit criticism to the government organization or the official criticized for perusal and approval before publication. Regarding letters to the editor, the resolution states that all wholesome criticism may be

Articles of Interest:

Honan's Famine Relief Program

For the first time in the history of China a government has met the terrible challenge of flood and famine with planned action not only for emergency relief but for increased production and rehabilitation of the affected areas. Government and people, working side by side have already achieved some remarkable results, the details of which are becoming more fully known. An article in the Ta Kung Pao of April 3, 1950, gives some additional facts and figures on work being carried on in Honan province.

* * *

PROTRACTED Kuomintang plunder and Japanese aggression had left the people all but prostrate. On top of this, natural calamities, consisting of floods, droughts, windstorms and crop destroying insects followed in quick succession. In 1949 heavy floods broke down the neglected and war-damaged river dikes, and 50 out of 86 districts in Honan were soon under water. About 23 percent of the total arable land was flooded, affecting over 7,000,000 people. Crops destroyed by flood waters ranged between 20 and 40 percent, according to the area affected. In other districts, 50 percent of the crops had been damaged by drought, and hundreds of acres despoiled by insects. Windstorms and hail also took their toll.

"Out of more than 7,000,000 famine victims," the article said "some 3,000,000 sought self-preservation through production work, while over 300,000 could not survive without relief." Of these, "famine sufferers who can wait to eat their wheat harvests total no more than 10 percent; those who can preserve life through production 40 percent; those who require government help, 45 percent; and those who require emergency help, five percent."

On December 8, last year, the Honan Provincial People's Government called a conference of all "responsible officials of the various organs, public bodies and democratic personages of the various strata of society" to discuss ways and means of dealing with the emergency, the article continued. At this meeting a plan for "tiding over famine through production" was passed for action and a working committee set up for this purpose. The 7-point program provided for distribution of fixed quotas of emergency relief grain to badly affected areas, help with distribution and marketing of surpluses produced, and exchange with other areas. In addition, it called for the organization of stricken people into productive "sideline" jobs such as transportation, oil-crushing, and cotton ginning, provided aid to transferred plants in cities so that they could resume production, specified the uniting of famine relief work with river dredging and road repair, and urged the practice of thrift throughout the province.

There is space for extracts only from the article's summary of results achieved. As a result of the united efforts of the government and people, it stated "most localities in the Honan province successfully pulled through the famine crisis of last winter while serious famine areas have been reduced to about a dozen districts."

During December and January, "Chengchow organized a total of 5,710 persons to undertake transportation work. This yielded a total profit valued at 3,600,000 catties of wheat, sufficient to keep 60,000 people alive for two months. In Lushan District, 20,000 people were engaged to work in coal mines. They were able to earn a total of 60,000 catties of maize daily, enough to keep 70,000 alive. Loyang put 1,000 rubber-wheeled carts to use, and thus provided a means of livelihood for 60,000. In Sihua, 8,000 women were organized for spinning and weaving work."

Many other groups, the article reported, were organized for woodcutting and gathering, making straw sandals, supplying shoes to the People's Liberation Army and so forth. In one area alone, 270 production sub - committees were organized with 2,380 persons participating in cutting firewood. They hewed 3,000,000 catties of fuel wood every month and exchanged them for 300,000 catties of wheat, sufficient, the article reported, "to maintain 7,000 people for two months."

Along with the efforts of these district committees was the work of the government in promoting conservancy projects and the like. "In organizing the transportation of public grain, the government issued a total of 100,000,000 catties of grain to be used in payment for transportation," the article said. "This was sufficient to support 1,660,000 people. Another 50,000,000 catties were issued by the government to finance river dredging work. This help maintained 900,000 people. Purchase of native products by cooperatives and trading corporations of various districts also helped the stricken people a great deal."

In the future, the article concludes, "the policy of 'self-preservation through production with government assistance' will be strictly followed in Honan so that not a single person will starve and not a single acre of cultivatable land will lie barren."

published if authenticity can be ascertained.

The resolution of the Central Committee is applicable to newspapers and periodicals under Communist Party leadership. When papers and periodicals outside the party criticize the organization and personnel of the party in the same spirit and with the same attitude, the party is to lend the necessary cooperation and support, according to the newly passed resolution.

Official Sentenced

AN official attached to the propaganda department of the Li Li District Government in Wukiang *hsien*, in south Kiangsu province, has been sentenced to five years for wounding two people. At a mass meeting in February called by Li Tsung-wen, the convicted person, he lost his temper as a result of the small number of people who turned up. The date of the meeting coincided with Chinese Lunar New Year, when most people in the vicinity were celebrating at home or attending the theater.

Enraged over the small attendance, Li forced all theaters to stop their performances. At the meeting itself, the audience failed to respond enthusiastically. Doubly incensed, Li jumped down from the platform shouting at the audience. A quarrel resulted during which the official whipped out his pistol and wounded two persons. Li was first sentenced to life imprisonment by a Provisional People's Court but the sentence was reduced by the Supreme Court after review.

Commenting on the case, the Shanghai *Giefang Rhbao* declared the sentence to be correct and pointed out several lessons to be learned from the incident. These included: 1) The strengthening and readjustment of the organization of the Communist Party and an improvement in the educational work among members. 2) The necessity for the complete elimination of the bureaucratic attitude and manner of doing things. 3) The discipline of Communist Party members must be improved.

New Marriage Law

CHINA has been freed of one of the world's most ugly and humiliating marriage systems. A new marriage law passed by the Central People's Government Council illegalizes the nation's former feudal marriage system. All antiquated regulations and practices which compelled women to marry without any regard for their desires have been swept away by the new government action.

The basis for the new marriage system is freedom of choice for both parties, monogamy, equal rights of both sexes, the rights of widows to remarry and guaranteed legal rights for mothers and children. Polygamy, the taking of concubines and child marriage or child betrothal are prohibited as well as the taking of money for arranging marriages. Men of 20 and women of 18 years may marry and no third person

may interfere in a marriage based on mutual consent.

All marriages must be registered with the government where the couple reside and marriage certificates are to be issued. Regarding rights and obligations of husbands and wives, the new law stipulates that both are equal in the home. Husband and wife have the right to retain the use of their own names, choose their own professions and take part in social activities.

Divorce is permitted if both parties desire it. If only one party desires it, divorce will be granted only if the government or the court fail to achieve reconciliation. A husband may not apply for a divorce when his wife is pregnant and must wait one year after the child is born before doing so. This restriction does not apply to women. Following divorce, the husband must pay household debts if these cannot be paid by the wealth accumulated during the marriage, but debts contracted by the wife must be borne by her.

Planned Distribution

THE planned distribution of China's coal to points where it will have maximum economic value will be achieved by the work of the newly formed state-owned national coal company.

The China Coal and Building Materials Company, with its head office in Peking and branches in many parts of the country, will handle distribution and supply of coal throughout China. The output of all state mines will be under its control and contracts may also be signed between the company and privately operated mines. According to the new plan, all areas will be supplied with local coal as far as possible and deficiencies will be covered by the company's distributing mechanism. Coal for railroads and industries will have priority but the company will also be able to ensure an adequate coal supply for domestic use.

In many provinces, such as Hopei and Honan, peasants have never had enough fuel. Coal will now be delivered to the villages, and this will save the burning of materials which can be used as fertilizer. Cooperatives will be able to supply peasants with coal since the company can provide them with the product at less than the wholesale market price.

Because of the size of the company, the price of coal, which is the main source of power for industry and one of the essential daily necessities of the people, will in the future be determined by the company. This will help the government maintain stability on the market. Many coal contracts already have been signed by public and private industrial concerns throughout the country with the China Coal and Building Materials Company.

Exports of coal are to be handled by this state company. It also will supply building materials such as cement, steel reinforcements, timber, bricks and tiles to public utilities, city construction jobs and eventually to villages.

Cotton Production

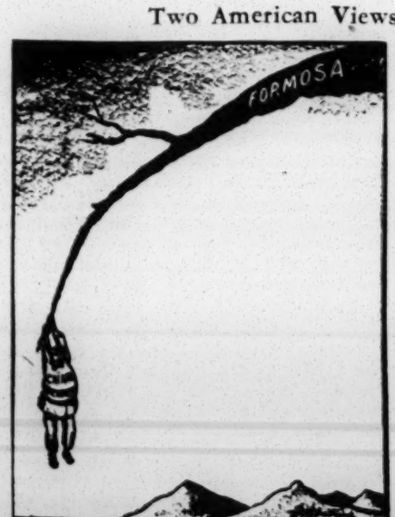
PEASANTS in the two great cotton producing areas of Central-South China and Northwest China are receiving considerable assistance from the local authorities in the preparatory work of cotton and hemp planting.

The two areas have aimed at turning out 123,000 tons of cotton out of a total national target of 650,000 tons. The Agricultural Department of the Central-South Military and Administrative Committee, for example, has set up four teams to help direct cotton planting work. Teams, which include experts on cultivation, fertilizer and pest control, are visiting Honan, Hupeh, Kiangsi and Hunan provinces.

In Kiangsi and Hupeh provinces, the government is providing 1,900 tons of special fine cotton seed and in Northwest China, similarly, the best types of seed are being introduced, with 1,320 tons of the South Sea island varieties of seed being planted there for the first time. Large quantities of special fertilizer also are being transported to the area.

In Kiangsi, famous for its linen, the People's Government is supplying enough fine quality hemp seed to plant more than 8,000 acres of land in the neighborhood of Wantsai.

Two American Views of US China Policy



"The Limb We Are Invited Out On"
Fitzpatrick—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"Uh Huh! Still Saving Face!"
Talburt—Scripps Howard Newspapers

SHANGHAI

Companies Cooperate

IN an effort to overcome present difficulties facing the production and marketing of rolled tobacco, 11 leading tobacco firms have drawn up measures for the joint purchase of raw materials and joint marketing of finished materials.

The new scheme is expected to do much in the way of reducing cut-throat competition among the different tobacco companies in Shanghai. A start has been made in fixing prices after consultation and, as a result, cigarette prices have been stabilized.

It has been revealed that the local cigarette industry had a maximum monthly output of 140,000 cases, and normal production has been between 110,000 and 120,000 cases. Since the liberation, however, the output has greatly declined owing to the suspension of shipments to north China and a dwindling market for Shanghai cigarettes in north Anhwei and north Kiangsu provinces where a handicraft cigarette industry has been growing.

March Taxes

THE previous month witnessed an overfulfillment of taxes for the city. According to statistics, tax receipts in Shanghai during March totaled JMP656,400,000,000 or an equivalent in value to 315,830,000 catties of rice. In terms of currency, tax revenue exceeded the set target by 7.5 percent or by 8.7 percent in terms of rice. In both terms of currency and rice, March tax receipts exceeded the total receipts of January and February added together.

Receipts which overshot their target included 14 items: business profit tax, stamp tax, income tax on deposits, interest and temporary business tax, commodity tax on foods, daily use articles, industrial products, construction materials, toilet goods, farm products, mineral products, house tax, vehicle license tax and amusement tax.

Expensive Employees

THE French owned tramway and electric company of Shanghai has made no bones about operating on the debit side of the ledger.

According to a local vernacular, the pay of the staff members of the company, especially the French employees, is alarmingly high. The general manager draws a monthly salary of 9,536 party units (a parity unit equals roughly one-sixth of a US dollar), which could be enough to pay the wages of 100 technicians. Other French staff members average a monthly salary from between 3,000 to 4,000 parity units. The company has 44 French employees and the total monthly salaries add up to 134,959 parity units.

In addition to their regular salaries, these employees were reported to be supplied with cars, houses, servants, water and power supply, the expenses of which are all borne by the company. According to the same report, "This is an abnormal phenomenon,

and if not corrected there can be no chance for achieving any balance in accounts."

Stability Notes

IN an attempt to aid the public in the matter of banknotes, the Shanghai branch of the People's Bank some time ago recalled small denomination notes below JMP200. However, in view of the recent declines in commodity prices, the demand for small demomination notes has increased. In order to cope with the situation, the People's Bank here has set up a special department to handle the exchange or large denomination notes for small denomination notes and vice versa.

TRADE

Exports Via Hongkong

TO encourage private exporters to ship their cargoes via Hongkong, the Department of Trade has issued instructions to the China Produce Export Corporation to accept orders for freight to be transported by the Shanghai-Kowloon railway.

The East China office of the Corporation is to handle export cargoes according to a specified program which is already in effect. The chief points of this program include: 1) The Corporation is authorized to accept cargo assignments only from exporters whose registrations have been approved by the East China Foreign Trade Control Bureau and who are members of the International Traders Guild (Importers and Exporters Guild). 2) Orders are accepted for transportation of cargoes to be delivered in Hongkong for export via Hongkong. 3) Settlement of foreign exchange on exports should be carried out by the exporters themselves according to the ruling of the Bank of China. 4) The corporation will arrange with the Foreign Trade Control Bureau for exemption of endorsement of the export permit at the port of exit (Canton); this privilege is similar to that enjoyed by state-operated enterprises in shipping cargoes abroad.

Silk Prospects

FROM Hongkong, it was reported that Chinese silk was in great demand. These reports were made known with the advent of the silk trading season.

Foremost among the factors bringing Chinese silk into sharp demand in Hongkong was the call for the commodity from Indian silk importers, whose representatives in the Colony were said to be flooded with inquiries as to quotations and available stocks of Chinese silk.

Silk traders in Hongkong estimated that the stocks of Chinese silk in the Colony at present are not more than 50 packages. With the available cargo at such a low ebb, quotations were seen headed for an increase in the event of orders being placed by Indian importers. One of the main factors in the demand for Chinese silk was said to be the comparative declines in the quality of Japanese and Korean silks reaching Hongkong. In general, it was believed that prospects were quite bright for Chinese silk, according to interested circles in Hongkong.

Sino-Soviet Trade Pact

A TRADE and barter agreement between China and the Soviet Union for 1950 has been signed by a Chinese trade delegation and the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade in Moscow. Under the terms of the barter agreement, the Soviet Union will export various types of industrial equipment to China and China in return will send raw materials to the USSR.

Simultaneously, a protocol was signed providing for the supply of industrial equipment and materials by the USSR to the People's Republic of China from 1950 to 1952. The supplies will be counted as a part of the loans provided by the agreement signed in Moscow on Feburary 14, 1950.

The agreements and protocol were signed by Yeh Chi-chuang, Minister of Trade of the Central People's Government of China, and the USSR Trade Minister.

The Week's Business

The downward price trend continues, but at a slower rate, while some items show slight increases. As a sign of financial stability, bank deposits are for longer terms and the Jen Min Piao deposit has become more popular than the protected parity unit savings.

* * *

THE local market was steady during the week under review from April 20 to 26. Most commodity quotations continued to register mild declines, although the margin of decrease was much narrower than the previous week, and a number of items such as paikeng rice, cotton yarn and edible oil began to register slight increases during the week.

More brisk trading was also reported, as Canton, Swatow and Tientsin merchants made purchases of yarn and Pootung merchants bought rice from Shanghai. The turnover of essential commodities in the local market during the week increased by an average of from five to seven percent, while corresponding increases were registered at the Shanghai Clearing House attesting to revived local trading.

As a result of the stabilization of currency and commodity prices, people have been turning in their cash holdings to the bank. Deposits, meanwhile, are being accepted for longer terms. The various offices of the Cooperative and Savings Department of the People's Bank are taking deposits for terms longer than one month. On the first day of the institution of this deposit system, some JMP18,500,000 was received by the People's Bank for deposits of longer than two years. This indicates the heightened confidence in Jen Min Piao that has been brought about by the stabilized currency. The People's Bank, at the same time, has been offering attractive interest rates to encourage deposits.

The local *Sin Wan Jih Pao* reports that the various local private banks and joint government-private banks in Shanghai carried a total of JMP371,521,540,000 in deposits on April 1 and that this amount went up to JMP457,568,630,000 on April 15, an increase of some 20 percent.

Illustrating the relative popularity of parity unit and JMP accounts, the Cooperative and Savings Department of the People's Bank and its various branches and agents had 124,418 parity deposit accounts, on April 1, and only 90,211 by April 15, a decrease of some 27 percent. During the corresponding period, JMP deposit accounts increased from 91,670 to 117,740, an increase of 28 percent.

One-third of the local private banking institutions are reported to be making a profit of between JMP100,000,000 and JMP300,000,000 monthly. The Chung Hsin Bank, for instance, nets a monthly profit of between JMP100,000,000 and JMP 200,000,000. Many other business enterprises, such as clothiers, department stores, restaurants, metal goods shops, watch sellers, pharmacies and so forth have been moderately successful by following appropriate business practices. On the other hand, enterprises mismanaged and of a speculative nature face dark prospects in the present economic remolding.

In view of the stabilized commodity prices, 17 local banks have grouped together for the release of agricultural loans, thus diverting capital to the rural areas. The total amount of loans was fixed at JMP2,000,000,000 and will be issued in Changshu, Taichong, Kating and Sungkiang. The issuance of these loans offered another outlet for the capital of local banks.

Another significant phenomenon in the local financial market was the steady lowering of interest rates. By April 25 the rate was reduced by the Interest Rate Board to 8.4 percent per month on call loans, 4.5 percent per month on interbank loans, and 1.2 percent on deposits, marking declines of more than 20 percent in a period of a week.

Quotations

Following is a listing of representative commodity prices.

	April 19 JMP	April 26 JMP
Parity unit	5,569	5,569
US dollar (TT)	39,000	37,000
20's yarn	4,250,000	5,000,000
42's yarn	6,200,000	7,800,000
12-lb. cloth	255,000	255,000
Rice, 1st grade	265,000	265,000
Battleship flour	74,500	72,500
Peanut oil	440,000	470,000
Coal briquette	22,500	22,500
Kerosene, Kuokwang	127,600	120,560
Koo Pan soap	175,000	168,000

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

MALAYA

No Time Wasted

FOLLOWING the arrival of Lieutenant-General Harold Briggs, Britain's strong man in the campaign to end rebellion in Malaya, RAF fighter planes went into action. Commenting on the Malaya situation, Briggs, a British peer, remarked, "It can't be hurried, but we won't waste time."

Lincoln bombers went to work and hammered jungle hill country south of Kuala Lumpur, Federation capital, and fighters strafed and bombed insurgent strongholds over a wide area. At the same time, General Briggs revealed that large scale intelligence expansion would take place and his new "war cabinet" was examining methods of obtaining more information on guerilla movements from rubber estate workers and villagers.

British Prestige

IN Singapore, Eric Harrison, Australian Defense Minister, was concerned over the loss of "too many lives and too much British prestige," as well as the great threat to European interests. Harrison stated that the British position in Malaya had been allowed to deteriorate greatly. The Australian also publicly puzzled over the military situation, wondering why an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 insurgents are holding at bay between 50,000 and 70,000 troops. "What is necessary is not so much an army in the modern sense but the creation of a frontier force on commando lines with a spirit of high adventure and prepared to restore the Empire," he stated. Harrison generally followed the official Australian line of being interested "in establishing stable governments in Indonesia, Malaya and Burma."

From London, the conservative *Daily Telegraph* editorially expressed the opinion that "the indivisibility of Commonwealth defense, as indeed that of all 'Western Democracies,' whatever their geographical location, is epitomized by the war in Malaya." The paper added that Malaya was the key sector in a world-wide struggle, and a chain of incalculable consequences hangs on it. "If the British government has been lamentably slow to recognize this, there are at least signs of a change of attitude," it observed.

Missionaries for Malaya

AMERICAN missionaries and teachers who have evacuated China may come to Malaya to alleviate the shortage of Chinese-speaking European school teachers if a suggestion made to the US Technical Aid Mission, which recently visited Malaya, materializes.

Mr. Robert A. Griffin, former ECA official in China and now head of the US Malaya mission, said it was entirely in the hands of Washington whether this suggestion is acted upon. One suggestion had it that the best way of tackling the problem would be to send a small American survey group for an on-the-spot report.

Subversive Organ

THE Malayan Federal government has refused to register the Malaya Nationalist Party because of its links with "subversive" organizations. The party claims to have about 2,000 members within Federation territory.

The government's refusal claimed that since its inception in October 1945 members of the Nationalist Party allied themselves with subversive groups. It claimed that the leaders of a small subversive organization in northern Perak were found to be members of the Nationalist Party.

INDO-CHINA

Bao Dai Crisis

THREE months after the installation of ex-Emperor Bao Dai as head of the Vietnam government a crisis is reported. Squabbling apparently is under way between the government and the French authorities in Indo-China as to the handling of American economic and military aid. Bao Dai wants the aid direct while the French are anxious to maintain control.

The American Technical Aid Mission's Robert Griffin, has insisted that any aid recommended should not meet with the same fate as US aid to the Kuomintang in China. The mission was reported to be anxious that the measure of self-government enjoyed by the Bao Dai government should not be fettered in any way. However, the mission also urged that this measure of freedom should be augmented so as ultimately to make it a real national government.

Frustrated French

ON the French side, a sense of frustration prevails in high circles who feel that three months of the Bao Dai experiment has not succeeded in attracting the nationalist elements in the country. Some indication has been noted that the French now are trying to put pressure on Bao Dai to make changes in his government. When asked whether he would make any changes, following a visit by the French High Commissioner, Bao Dai stated that he was mainly concerned with efficiency in order to help the government face its international obligations. "Today, she has the perilous position of standing up amidst the very first lines of the cold war," said the one-time Emperor.

INDIA

US, Britain Happy

THE agreement between the prime ministers of India and Pakistan on treatment of minorities was warmly received by official Washington and London circles. In the agreement, Prime Minister Pandit Nehru and Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan have pledged to adhere to the principle of a secular state with full democratic rights for all — including their religious minorities. It was hoped that the mutual agreement would put an end to Hindu-Moslem disturbances and tension between the two Dominions.

In London, a Commonwealth Relations Office spokesman revealed the agreement was "warmly welcomed." It was hoped it would lead to a general improvement in the political climate between India and Pakistan in a way which will be of value both in international and Commonwealth problems. Across the Atlantic, in Washington, Dean Acheson described as a "demonstration of statemanship" the successful conclusion of the New Delhi talks between the two prime ministers. In New Delhi itself, a question was put before Prime Minister Nehru which suggested that several past Indo-Pakistan agreements had been violated and the latest might meet a similar fate. Nehru admitted past breaches but said a number of agreements had been acted upon either fully or partially.

Meanwhile, at Lake Success the United Nations Security Council appointed the Australian jurist, Sir Owen Dixon, as mediator in the longstanding Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan. Dixon was formerly ambassador to Washington and was reported to have spent two years playing a vital part in coordinating the US and Australian efforts to make his country a great military and supply base, an arsenal and a training ground for the war against Japan.

Investment Protection

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan is scheduled to visit Washington at the invitation of President Truman around the first week in May. His purpose is said to be "to further understanding between the US and Pakistan."

Mr. Lauri Shaffi, Pakistan Consul-General in New York, in commenting on the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister, stated that Pakistan seemed to be one of the few countries in the world that was not looking for a "hand-out" from the US. "Our biggest problem is industrial development," he declared. "We have the resources but very few industries. The Pakistani government is encouraging foreign investors to supply the know-how simply to protect their investments."

WEST GERMANY

"Germany Over All"

THE strains of the Kaiser's national anthem, "Deutschland Ueber Alles" was heard for the first time since the war on an important official occasion. Following a speech by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer on his initial official visit to Berlin, some 2,000 politicians in the audience sang the anthem of happier empire days at the top of their voices. Adenauer led the singing after asking the audience to rise and sing the third stanza following his speech.

The three Western commandants of Berlin remained seated when the band struck up. However, Allied High Commission officials in Bonn said the three commandants had not necessarily expressed disapproval by remaining seated. Following a British government rebuke to Adenauer for his action, the Chancellor denied that he had pandered to nationalist reaction since the verse which had been sung had been banned by the Nazis.

Anti-Semitism Continues

ANTI-SEMITIC mobs in West Germany do not wear brown shirts today, but that is the only difference from the anti-Semitic mobs of 1938. This was the opinion of the Berlin Jewish weekly, *Der Tag* in commenting on the continued existence of one of Hitler's contributions in the Western occupied zone of Germany.

"There are signs of a rebirth of anti-Semitic excesses which without exaggeration can be compared to those in the blackest days of 1933 or 1934," the paper said. "Instead of protests and firm action by the authorities, these scandalous outbreaks have been met only with lame apologies by party politicians. Terror and pogroms can only be countered by the sharpest action."

In Frankfurt, police reported they had definite proof that children aged between six and 15 had overturned 16 tombstones in a Jewish cemetery. Although the fathers of two of the children were former Nazi members, the police claimed that there was no evidence to back up the belief that the desecration of the cemetery had any political motive. However, a police spokesman revealed that the incident will be thoroughly investigated.

Denazification Frauds

GERMAN legal authorities have dropped investigations against the Wurttemberg-Baden Prime Minister, Reinhold Maier, who had been accused of being involved in "large scale briberies" and fraud in "denazification trials." Maier also had been accused of having been party to the acceptance by state denazification officials of bribes for according lower classifications, sentences or fines to Nazis.

A special report prepared by American authorities strongly criticrized Geman officials involved in the denazification scandal. The report also sharply attacked the action of the state chief prosecutor in dismissing charges preferred by Wurttemberg-Baden police against prominent persons in the government, including the Prime Minister. The report revealed that "there is some evidence that the public prosecutor's office is acting to protect top officials in the state government.

Practical Nazis

DR. Wilhelm Hass, chief of the organization bureau of the West German embryo foreign service, said that 14 of the 31 senior members of the service were former members of the Nazi Party. He told a press conference that the government was satisfied none of these men was in any way politically objectionable today.

Because of the dearth of persons with the required talent to fill posts at home and abroad, it was necessary to draw on former members of Hitler's Foreign Office. According to Hass, many of these people had joined the Nazi Paty out of practical or moral compulsion.

US Army Remaining

US armed forces in Europe have been ordered to draft plans based on a futher five year occupation of Germany.

A directive sent to all Army Airforce and Naval Headquarters in the Euopean Command instructed commanders to "prepare data for the establishment and periodic revison of a master plan of logistic (supplies) development projected five years ahead." The US Army and Airforce have embarked on a huge construction program. About 250,000,000 marks have been earmarked for projects during the 1950-51 fiscal year, and army sources stated approximately the same amount would be required in the 1951-52 fiscal year.

Capital Investment Drop

According to statistics compiled by the US Department of Commerce and the Securities and Exchange Commission, a further decline in US capital investment—one of the country's economic bellwethers—is predicted this year.

Government estimates put expenditures for the construction of new plants and other capital improvements this year at 11 percent less than such expenditures for 1949. This would be a drop of a little more than 16 percent below 1948.

Among the lines expected to show the greatest drop in capital investment are the nation's railroads whose expenditure on new rolling stock, and other equipment for 1950 will be down 32 percent from last year.

Business analysts state that while the situation does not call for alarm, the figures are indicative of the generally unhealthy state of the nation's economy, pointing out that this decline has continued for two years despite tremendous and ever-increasing government "pump-priming." Expenditures included such major items as internal rearmament, the Marshall Plan, the Atlantic Pact and various other foreign aid schemes.

UNITED STATES

Balancing Britain

MARSHALL Plan Administrator Paul Hoffman formally welcomed a British motor car show in New York with the forecast of an "all-out drive by the British industry to please American car owners." Hoffman stated that many new models had been specially fitted to American tastes.

Mr. Hoffman held out great hope for British cars on the American market helping to close Britain's dollar gap. He also hoped that this effort to earn dollars by the motor industry would be followed by similar efforts on the part of other British industries, so that in the not too distant future British industry can extend a similar welcome to US companies to compete in the British market.

During his speech, Hoffman revealed that Britain had set a goal of 50,000 cars a year for sale in America. This was deemed a rather modest figure in view of the 5,108,841 passenger cars produced by the US in 1949.

Export Surplus Falling

THE annual rate of America's export surplus fell from its peak of almost $11,000,000,000 in the summer of 1947 to $5,000,000,000 in the third quarter of 1948 and remained there until the third quarter of 1949 when it fell to $3,500,000,000 in the final quarter of 1949. So far this year, it has been below $2,000,000,000.

In Asia, US exports were up while imports dropped. According to the Department of Commerce, exports rose from $133,400,000 in January to $138,300,000, and imports dropped from $107,400,000 to $96,000,000. The largest amount of exports went to Japan, India and the Philippines in that order. Imports came from Malaya, India, the Philippines and Japan.

In Many Lands

AMERICAN funds and guns continued to be the topic of present or future news in many parts of the globe. The director of a United Nations economic survey of the Middle East, Gordon Clapp, has advocated that private or American government funds be used to develop countries in this area. Clapp warned against a "shock troop approach."

In Syria, America has urged the Arab League to come to peace terms with Israel. The Syrian Minister of Economics revealed that an American diplomat in Cairo delivered a verbal message about peace moves in the middle of the night to heads of delegations attending the Arab League Council. Commenting on persistent reports of strong US pressure on the Arab states, a Cairo paper commented: "It is very painful that a modern democratic state should use such means of expressing its power."

US Ambassador-at-Large Dr. Philip Jessup has said in a broadcast that the US believed free peoples of Asia,

who were determined to maintain their independence, were entitled to military aid to enable them to remain free and to work out their problems in their own way. Stategic airfields, roads and communication systems will be built in Thailand during the next 12 months with US money up to a maximum of US$10,000,000, according to Thai Cabinet sources. US official circles in Bangkok have confirmed Washington's intention to direct to Thailand part of the military aid previously intended for China. On the other side of the world, the first American shipment of arms for the defense of Norway has arrived in Oslo. A Norwegian military spokesman said the supplies were a test consignment comprising 300 tons of rifles and ammunition.

SOVIET UNION

US Charge Rejected

A MOSCOW Radio broadcast rejected Washington's claim for compensation on the basis of an American note blaming the Soviet Union for the loss of an American plane over the Baltic. The USSR claimed that it did not know whether the American plane had crashed, but if this were so then the responsibility lay with the US which "sent out a plane to photograph Soviet defenses."

The US note alleged that Soviet fighter planes had shot down an unarmed American airplane in the Baltic and claimed indemnity. The Soviet note, as quoted by the Moscow Radio, reiterated that verified data established that the B-29 opened fire on a Soviet fighter and then turned and flew off.

Soviet papers carried the texts of the US note and the Soviet reply side by side without comment. In Washington, House Democratic leader, John McCormack suggested that America break off diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

Trieste Note

Moscow has called for the immediate appointment of a governor for Trieste and the withdrawal of Allied troops. A Soviet note stated: "Although more than two and a half years have passed since the entry into force of the peace treaty with Italy neither the permanent statute nor the provisions concerning the temporary regime have as yet been put into operation. The governor of the Free Territory has not been appointed. The provisional government council has not been established. Foreign troops to this date have not been withdrawn from the Free Territory of Trieste, and the military occupation of the territory continues illegally."

America had no comment, France was examining the note and Britain was expected to reject uncompromisingly the Soviet demand for troop withdrawals. In Italy, left-wing Socialist leader Pietro Nenni supported the Soviet demand. He said the only hope for a peaceful settlement was the creation of an autonomous state of Trieste as laid down in the Italian peace treaty.

Rouble Aftermath

The revaluation of the rouble last February and its being placed on a gold basis has made economic relations with the Eastern European nations more stable, according to the Soviet Communist Party organ, *Pravda*.

The exchange of goods between the countries of the socialist camp is conducted on the basis of fair, fixed prices, the paper said. "The People's Democracies have been permanently shielded from the influence of economic crisis, from the instability of currency exchanges and devaluation." *Pravda* revealed one of the tasks of the Council of Economic Mutual Assistance, formed in January, 1949, was the study and implementation of methods of economic cooperation which would aid the planned socialist development of the People's Democracies.

GREECE

Government to Order

A STRONG man for Greece in the form of 67-year old General Nicholas Plastyras has been the answer to constant American warnings as to instability and inefficiency in the Greek government.

Several weeks before, US Ambassador Grady warned Premier Venizelos that an unstable government and talk about dissolution of Parliament might endanger further American aid for Greece. The Ambassador, in a letter, said: "A stable, efficient government, supported by the people and Parliament will be able to act with courage for a long term policy essential to the wise use of the aid offered by the American people. A major improvement in government efficiency is essential to the proper administration of the aid which is in the hands of the Greek government and Parliament to decide whether or not they wish to receive American aid and so accept the responsibilities to attain its purpose."

Greece Will Play

TAKING a hint from the Ambassador's clear cut terms as well as an endorsement of this warning by Secretary of State Acheson, April 14 saw General Plastyras forming a new government after the resignation of Premier Venizelos who enjoyed a short-lived three week term of office. The new Center Coalition, under General Plastyras, will "cooperate with the American mission to implement a large scale program of economies, better administration and just redistribution of taxation," it was announced by Greek King Paul.

Both American and British official reaction to the new government under Plastyras was one of favorable comment. Reconciliation with Tito's Yugoslavia was seen in the offing with one of Plastyras' first official actions being a meeting with the Yugoslavian Charge d'Affaires in Athens. It was reported that a renewal of diplomatic relations, interrupted since 1946, was the topic of discussion.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador Henry Grady, in London for a two day visit, told reporters that he favored continuance of US aid. "The Greek government," he said, "although topsy-turvy after the elections, is stable and the outlook appears good for the future."

Incidental Aid

MARSHALL Plan aid in the form of 12 electric chairs has been requested by the Greek government in Athens, according to a Washington dispatch of *Telepress*. The same report stated that the Marshall Plan Administration had failed to answer this "embarrassing question."

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 141)

The bandit did not change his expression while his crimes were related. He did not even pretend to listen. Even when his victims climbed up on the platform and denounced him, telling his crimes to the audience and how he tortured them, and then crying to the peopl and the officials to shoot the villain, the bandit remained as impassive as if he were listening to a tale that did not concern him at all.

On November 27, 1949 he plotted with eight other robbers to rob a certain house on West Street. He entered the house at one in the morning by climbing over the wall and with threats and even tortures, he succeeded in stealing from the family six ounces of gold and some 700 US dollars. But on the road, he ran into the police and was arrested together with the two other bandits. The third one on trial was arrested at another place where he was found committing a robbery.

After the victims had said their say and after the representatives from the labor organization had finished their speeches, the prosecutor from the Public Safety Bureau read the indictment against the robbers. The magistrate explained to the people that it was not due to the indecision or laxity of the government that these culprits had been kept in prison for such a long time before the public trial, but it was because the government must investigate very thoroughly all cases that deal with life and death. The government cannot employ torture and it cannot carelessly sacrifice any life.

The government was now fully convinced that this man was irretrievable. Thus, in accordance with the people's opinion and with the rules against bandits promulgated by the East China Bureau, the local government passed capital punishment on this bandit, who had ruined so many families and ended so many lives. The other three were sentenced to three to five years' imprisonment.

As the magistrate read the verdict, there were loud shouts from the spectators voicing their approval.

H. C. HUANG

Chuanchow, Fuklen
April 14, 1950

The Review's English Lesson CXXVIII

Labor Day

THIS week's text comes from the preamble to the constitution of the "Mechanics' Union of Trade Associations," one of America's first central labor bodies, which was established in Philadelphia in 1827. Philadelphia was then the largest city in the United States, and it was there, in 1791, that the first strike in American history took place.

> **Is it just, is it equitable that we should waste the energies of our minds and bodies, and be placed in a situation of such increasing exertion and servility as must necessarily, in time, render the benefits of our liberal institutions to us inaccessible and useless, in order that the products of our labor may be accumulated by a few into vast pernicious masses, calculated to prepare the minds of the possessors for the exercise of lawless rule and despotism, to overawe the meagre multitude, and fright away that shadow of freedom that still lingers among us? Are we to confer almost every blessing on society, never to be treated as freemen and equals, and never to be accounted worthy of an equivalent, in return for the products of our industry?. . . No!. . . at the present period, when wealth is so easily and abundantly created that the markets of the world are overflowing with it, and when in consequence thereof, and of the continual development and increase of Scientific power, the demand for human labor is gradually and continually diminishing, it can not be necessary that we, or any portion of society, should be subject to perpetual slavery.**

Apart from the content of this passage, there is something to be noted from its style. In the more than 100 years since the above was written, style has become simpler, sentences shorter, and choice of words closer to the simpler, more direct words used in everyday speech. The passage is made up of three sentences only; today, less complicated sentences would probably be written. Such "rhetorical" repetitions of words with the same, or nearly the same, meaning, would be avoided [as in "Is it just, is it equitable. . ."].

The first sentence is in the form of a "rhetorical question,' that is, although a question is apparently asked, and there is a question mark at the end, the writer does not expect a reply; the reader is expected to agree immediately that of course it is not right that the products of labor should be appropriated by the few.

The first sentence is thus actually a statement, if we put aside the question form for the moment. It says that "we" [the workers] should not be forced to exert all our strength, to the extent that we are practically kept in bondage, for the benefit of the few, who thus gain despotic power, so that we finally lose all our freedoms.

We "waste" the energies of our minds and bodies because we do not receive the benefits of our exertions. We are "placed in a situation of such increasing exertion and servility;" that is, we are forced, through long hours of work and low wages, into involuntary servitude, bondage. This "must necessarily. . . render the benefits of our liberal institutions to us inaccessible and useless. . .", that is, this state of affairs will make our freedoms useless: we won't have the time or the energy to use our "freedoms." The rest of the sentence continues: ". . . accumulated [gathered together, amassed, monopolized] by a few into vast pernicious [evil] masses;" in other words, the relatively few monopolists become immensely [and wrongly] rich and powerful; ". . . calculated to prepare the minds of the possessors. . .", that is, this accumulation of vast wealth is designed, is destined, to influence the owners of it; ". . . for the exercise of lawless rule and despotism. . . .", i. e. this will cause the monopolists to make and execute their own laws [an example of rhetorical repetition: "lawless rule" has practically the same meaning as "despotism"]; ". . . to overawe the meagre multitude. . .", to frighten, to threaten, the masses ["meagre" means that the masses are weak and powerless against monoply capital]; ". . . and fright [frighten, scare] away that shadow of freedom [what little freedom there is, which isn't much]."

The second sentence is also put in the form of a question. Must we give everything to society, while being treated as inferiors, and get little in return? the writer asks, and the answer is obviously, "No!" To confer on is to give to. To be accounted worthy is to be considered deserving. An equivalent here means a return equal in value to the product of our labor.

The third sentence makes the point that science has made it possible to create abundant wealth, with the result that markets are overflowing, and at the same time, as labor grows more productive, less labor is needed to produce sufficient goods, so that there is no reason why labor should be kept in bondage. "In consequence thereof": as a consequence, as a result. "Scientific": in former times, capitalization of nouns was erratic; here it may indicate that the writers wished to show that they were aware of the importance of scientific knowledge. Nowadays, of course, very few nouns are capitalized, unless they are the names of persons or places, titles of books, etc. "Diminishing": growing less. "Can not": these two words have now become one; cannot, or, in informal writing and conversation, can't. "It can not be necessary": it must not be, it cannot be possible. "Perpetual": endless.

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